

Narva '96

A time
For
Change

1996

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There is a revolution taking place at Park College. A revolution of change. To some, nothing has changed much. From the old, weathered buildings to conversations about financial aid applications to finals. "Same ol', same ol'."

But something is changing—changing inside these walls and inside the people in these buildings. The catch word this year has been "apathy." It started in a conversation somewhere. Someone finally put their finger on the problem at Park College. People sat in groups and grumbled about it, throwing the college-sounding word around, discussing whose fault it was. It was the teacher who gave her a "B." It was the advisor who took too many early lunches—or even the president of the college. Perhaps it can all be blamed on that guy who always comes in ten minutes after class has begun.

Apathy was written and complained about by students, faculty, and staff; every editor in Copley Hall—even the editor of the Narva.

Finally, someone realized something—there are those who talk about change, and those who work toward change. Some students and faculty are beginning to work together to make Park College a place where students are once again proud to be alumni. They no longer eye each other with suspicion.

These old walls are wise. They have listened to generation upon generation of students laugh, cry, argue, and work together. They have survived world wars, "police actions," and the great depression. They will survive the nineties. If Park College is so dreary, why does the ghost of Copley Hall refuse to leave??

To borrow a quote I saw in the sixth grade, "Once I thought, 'Someone should do something,' then I realized I was someone." So, to those who have been poisoned with apathy, to those who get by with deceit instead of work, to those who accept passive participation in their education, your time has passed. The time has come—A TIME FOR CHANGE!

*—Andrea Sosa
Editor*

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Photo by Andrea Sosa

The Narva is an annual magazine of news, features, and photographs aimed at capturing the essence of the 1995-96 academic year at Park College.

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Special thanks to Jim and Jan Weigand.

Teachers making a difference

Daley Walker and Denny Okerstrom
--Two teachers who make a difference to students.

When I think of exceptional professors I have had, many from Park College come to mind. One who has made a particular difference to me is Dr. Daley Walker.

Dr. Walker is not only an excellent mathematician, (much greater than his modest ways would have you guessing), he is great at teaching mathematics. Before attending Park College, I had too many teachers who were, although quite knowledgeable in their field, unable to teach the subject well to students. It's rare to find an exception like Dr. Walker.

For two years, I dreaded the thought of taking calculus I and II for fear of lowering my GPA, but I also knew that as degree requirements, there was no way to avoid them. Finally, for the fall semester of my junior year, I enrolled in calculus I with Dr. Walker. It wasn't long after that I realized I was very fortunate in doing so.

Dr. Walker has a laid back, easy-going kind of style. He's not impressed by expensive textbooks and calculators. His only objective is to get the information to the students in a way they can understand it, use it, and even have a little fun doing it.

He is also a professor who truly cares about his students. He has a way of making me feel like we are always welcome to ask anything at any time. He's always there and his door is always open—even if you just want to go in, grab a piece of candy from the dish, and say "Hi!" And as brilliant as he is, he never makes us feel like we're asking a stupid question, (although we've asked plenty). Thanks to his teaching efforts, I not only finished calculus I and II, I went on to take calculus III and declared math a second major.

Teachers like Dr. Walker are more of an asset to Park College than most might realize. They are truly a key to the progress it will make in the future.

--C.M.

Park students already familiar with the teacher I write of will recognize the commitment to life learning so evident in his style of teaching, and his philosophy toward life in general. He once said that his job did not entail turning out carbon copy elitists who go out into the world and grab all the money they can. Becoming a liability to the people and land around them is avoidable. Respect for all living things, including our mother earth, is a more suitable alternative.

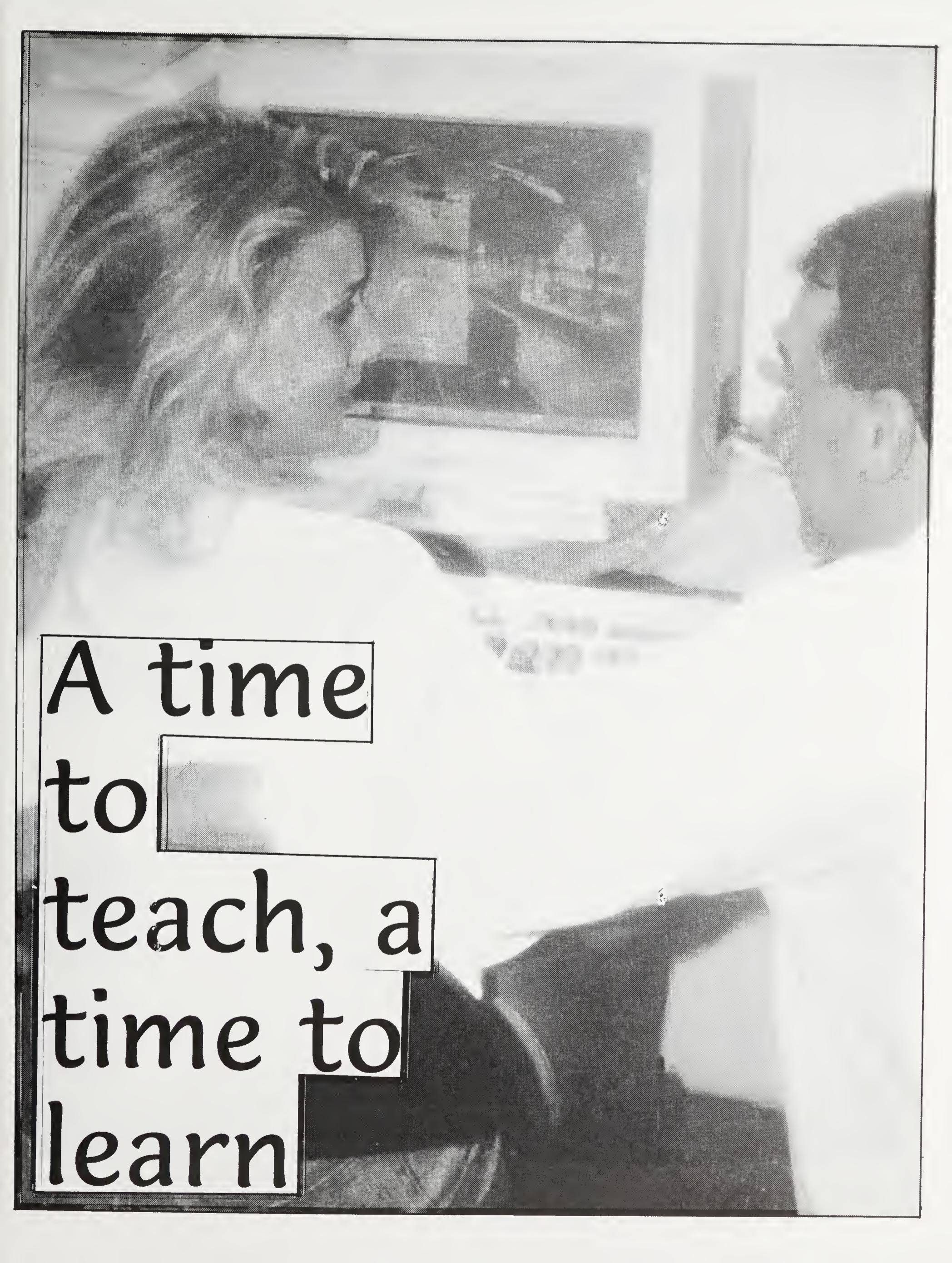
It is important to Denny Okerstrom that we manage to live life successfully, rather than simply being successful. This is no trivial message to a society that destroys the very land we all depend on. We have also been labeled as a land of kids killing kids. His philosophy is an ideal one. I think Denny would like to exist where people would act for the common good while allowing free enterprise. Put simply, do not reject those in life less fortunate than yourself. He teaches self respect and respect for others.

I see Denny as a parable person. Ask him a question, and you will get a deeper one thrown back at you. I am almost 28 and I think I have a good grasp on life, till Denny comes along and makes me think about those things I take for granted. Critical thinking is what Park calls it, and Denny finds the way to apply it through the study of literature. Response to this writing gives students an opportunity to find their voice. How does one react to the writing of Sandra Cisneros, or Fredrick Douglass, or William Shakespeare? Chances are, each will give life to new emotions and critical thinking skills. Some enjoy the work of Homer, and others, yet, Dr. Suess. Denny does not discount either.

What do you write about a person on a mission to save what earth, people, animal, or insect he can for the common good? If you get a chance, let me recommend you watch Modern Times by Charlie Chaplin, and discuss with yourself what we do today in industry and commerce. The few get rich off the labor of many. Again, we return to the issue of respect. The respect Denny speaks of is the respect that an employer owes to his employee and vice versa, as well as the respect they both owe to every living thing. Be accountable. Still not convinced? Read The Lorax by Dr. Suess. Denny is our own Lorax in Levi's.

It is an asset to Park College to have Denny Okerstrom on their faculty. He sets a great example to us all, and may yet help save the earth.

--Sean Ryan



A time
to
teach, a
time to
learn



Photo by Luke Bushyhead

Powers survives through poetry

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

Glancing across her eraser-torn notebook paper, Lyn Powers smiles, sets her pencil aside, and leans back against a tree as she peels off her glasses to massage the red marks they've left behind. Between cross-outs and erasures, her paper holds a single poem, separating the wilderness she has momentarily surrounded herself in from the world she watches from a hill top. From this distance, the world fails to admit its flaws, but Powers, a soon-to-be-grandmother of five and recent graduate of Park college, doesn't need a closer view to be reminded of life's imperfections.

Nearly a year ago Powers was diagnosed with cancer after a medical check-up with a physician. What followed was a series of tests and procedures, including chemotherapy and radiation treatment, to help prevent spread of the disease.

"I had chemo and radiation at the same time," Powers said. "Then, after that, I had surgery and they took out part of my lung, and I'm fine today. They never say you're cured, but I feel like I'm cured. They say I don't have to wait the full five years. If it hasn't recurred in two years, I can be pretty well sure they got it all."

"At one point, in August, they said that I had liver cancer," Powers continued. "They said that it metastasized to my liver and, more or less, told me six months."

Powers' diagnosis was given to her near the end of the 1995 Spring semester, and she came dangerously close to dropping her class load entirely to deal with her situation.

"I was really, really sick, and I was missing a lot of classes," Powers explained. "I really came in (to school) because I was going to withdraw because I was so far behind. I met with Betty Dusing, and she gave me an award for Re-Entry Woman of the Year from the American Association of University Women. She gave me those two crisp fifty-dollar bills and this plaque that was framed. It said 'Re-Entry Woman of the Year', and I looked at that and thought, 'Nah, I'm not going to drop out'."

The initial impact of the diagnosis led the 55 year-old Powers to deal with the life-threatening disease in her own way; creativity.

"I wrote a poem," Powers said. "The day I wrote

that poem is the day I changed. At first, it's a shock. You never think anything like cancer is going to happen to you. I always had good luck my whole life. I just couldn't believe it."

"And then, you're so sick with the chemo," Powers said. "Chemo's horrible. No words can tell you how horrible it is. You almost wish you would die, but after I got over the chemo and they gave me six months to live, that's when I decided to hell with it. I was going to live until I died. I wasn't going to go to bed. It's an attitude that if I had it, I had it, you know? The poem tells it all. That's the way I feel now."

Powers' method of staring death in the face and winning is not the only thing that would set her apart from other students and grandmothers.

"Photography, writing," Powers said. "I like to write poetry and music. I like to go to concerts. Rock concerts. I love Elton John. I was supposed to go to the Grateful Dead last summer, their last concert. I had tickets. I was in the hospital at the time and I didn't get to go. I like to go to rock concerts, especially the old rock, like Bob Seger, the Eagles, and that kind of stuff."

"I don't know," Powers said. "I've always been kind of a square peg in a round world. I never did fit in. I don't know why."

In 1956, Powers dropped out of Wyandotte high school, in Kansas City, Kansas, to enter the working world. Twenty years later, Powers decided to complete her high school education by obtaining a G.E.D. a few months before her oldest son received his high school diploma. It would be 14 years before Powers would decide to enroll at Kansas City, Kansas Community College in 1990.

"When I sent the last two, my twins, off to college, I was looking back and trying to decide," Powers said. "I had no regrets over my whole life. The only regret was that I didn't have an education. So, I decided to remedy that. Now I have no regrets."

A complete college education was further delayed for Powers when her son, Casey, was injured in a car accident, and she withdrew to help him in the recovery process.

"He was in a coma for a month with severe head injuries," Powers said. "He was a passenger in the car. He was paralyzed and in a wheelchair and all of that and in therapy. He couldn't take care of himself."

So, I dropped out of school and stayed home and took care of him for a year. He's had a full recovery. I went back to school. That's why it has taken six years."

After graduation from Park with a degree in English, Powers has plans of teaching high school English and possibly working with students in area theaters. Powers will receive her teaching certification next May.

"It's kind of anticlimactic because I don't get to go right out and teach high school English like I would like," she said. "But, it feels good to have a degree. It's opening doors for me this summer."

Cancer

You slipped in
Quietly
Without ceremony
Introduction or warning
Just moved in
And made yourself
At home
As if I wanted you
Invited you
Would have you
Stay for a while

Suddenly
You grabbed hold
And began to
Choke out my life
Twisted
And pulled it
Right out
From under me
As if it belonged to you

It's mine
You can't have it
I'm taking it back

Lyn Powers
9/15/96

"Irish eyes at Park"

by John Cascone

Twenty-seven year-old Park student Sean Ryan said he wants to make a difference in the world. Ryan, a non-traditional sophomore majoring in English with a core curriculum in language, literature, and writing, is pursuing a career in secondary education. Ryan, whose main goal is to be an English or history teacher in Kansas City's inner city, said he wants to make a positive impact in the lives of the youths there.

Ryan, who came to America from Ireland only nine years ago, still retains a strong Irish accent and often uses the word "lad" in conversation.

"I'm Irish to the bone," he said. "My heart is Irish. It's engraved in my soul."

Ryan was born in Kansas City but moved to Ireland with his mother at the age of two. He came back to America because he believes it's the land of opportunity. He said he sees America as a good country but still misses Ireland a lot.

"Sometimes it's agony for me," he said. "I don't think I will ever have a complete home."

In comparing America to Ireland, Ryan said that it's easier to live or to get by in Ireland, but it's harder to get ahead there.

Ryan said he came to America to live out his goals. He said in Ireland he was a fish out of water because his ideas were different than those that fit the mold of a complete Irishman. When he was younger, Ryan said he experienced ideas of grandeur while the other kids were just expecting the same type of life their parents lead.

Although Ryan sees faults in America, he insists he's in the right place.

"I see a lot of subjectivity in America--there are not a lot of equals," he said, "but weighing out the good and the bad, it's still a good country and the land for opportunity."

Ryan graduated from Christian Brother's School, a high school monastery in Ireland, in 1987 and came to America eight months later. He is married and now has a two-year-old son.

Ryan attends school full-time, works full-time and take part in the work study program.

Since his return to the U.S., Ryan has also been active in coaching soccer. He says coaching soccer has been a great experience in helping kids. His last coaching job was as an assistant coach at Bishop Miege for three years.

"I have volunteered a lot of my time coaching, and I enjoy it a lot," he said. "A lot of coaches think it ruins their integrity to work for free, but I don't believe that. I just want to be genuine with kids. A lot of coaches have no empathy. I believe kids should have fun in sports so they return for instruction later. I don't like to treat them in a regiment fashion."

Ryan would like to get into the Kansas City School District after getting certified to teach.



Photos by Andrea Sosa

"A lot of adults look at kids and don't give them enough credit. They're a lot smarter than we give them credit for."

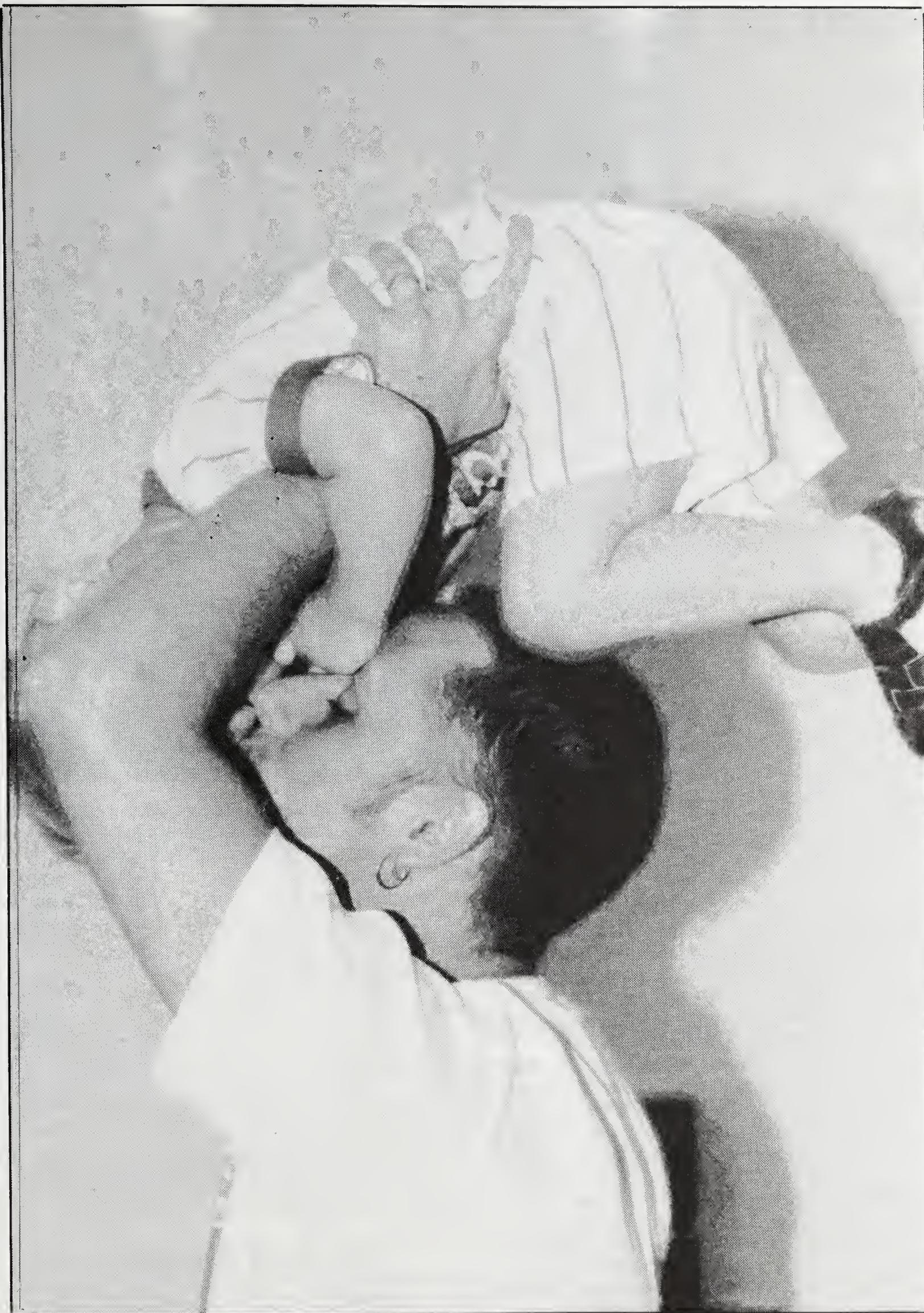
"I love kids," Ryan said. "I will have a chance to someday influence teenagers. A lot of adults look at kids and don't give them enough credit. They're a lot smarter than we give them credit for. Many things they do are because they're looking for acceptance." Ryan said there is a lot to be learned from children.

He says he loves to meet people and make friends with people from different cultures.

"Being open to cultural differences will give me an advantage as a teacher because I will be able to relate to different types of students," he said. "Kids have dreams. In our culture dreaming is a part of reality, but for some cultures it's not. This way I can offer kids from different cultures another perspective to keep them open to any ideas."

Ryan said one of the main reasons he wants to teach in the inner city is because of the kids he calls "hard kids." He said they are aggressive and a lot of people look at this as being negative. He said if channeled properly it can be turned into positive. Ryan said he was aggressive as a youth. I was a "hard kid."

Ryan plans to graduate in 1997. He considers himself lucky to be attending Park and heading in the right direction of his goals.



Meet Mike, Big words, bigger ideas!

By Laura Theiss and Amy Newport

Many students have noticed how difficult it is to have a quiet talk with Mike Johnson.

As student body president at Park College during the last year, Johnson made himself available to students as much as possible. Not that he is a quiet introverted person to begin with. Johnson can be the male equivalent of a social butterfly, saying "hello" to everyone in the near vicinity and carrying on several conversations at once. One minute he's talking to someone about his life before Park. The next, he talking about whether taking a certain professor's class is a good idea or not. Sprinkled throughout the conversations are examples of his humor. Often wry, sometimes scatological. Whatever students may hear about Mike Johnson, they will never hear he is boring.

Like most students at Park, Johnson is a non-traditional student. He is 35 years old, twice married with three children from his first marriage and a two-year old daughter from his second. Johnson is also an ex-Marine who was forced to retire in 1982 when he was diagnosed at 21 years old with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy, a viral disease of the heart.

"At first," he said about his heart disease, "it was very difficult. I was hospitalized for about three months. While in the hospital I found it difficult to think about anything other than my heart condition. I went through the why me's and became depressed. After I was released from the hospital I started to accept my condition and began dealing with the disease."

Johnson added that a daily regimen of drugs controls the disease and has for the last several years. However, he said, "The drugs could stop working any time and I will then get a beeper that will notify me of when I can get a heart transplant."

After waiting nearly 11 years, he began his college education. He explains why he waited so long to begin. "I could of started sooner; I was collecting full disability from the military and Social Security and the V.A. would have paid the costs. However, the counselors at Disabled American Veterans (D.A.V.) felt I should have my doctor's permission before beginning school. The doctors at first were reluctant to give permission; they were concerned that the stress of school could undermine my health. After several years of stability though, another doctor finally consented. Then a counselor at D.A.V. recommended that I wait one more year so I could become what's called, 'fully vested in the system.' That way my children would be able to collect my benefits should something happen to me." During his 11 year wait, Johnson pursued his interest in history, married, and began his family.



The wait seems to have been worth it. Johnson has had a successful career at Park in addition to being elected student body president during his junior year. He has maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout and accumulated numerous awards. He has been named an outstanding freshman and junior, received discipline honors in history and become a member of Alpha Chi, honors society in history.

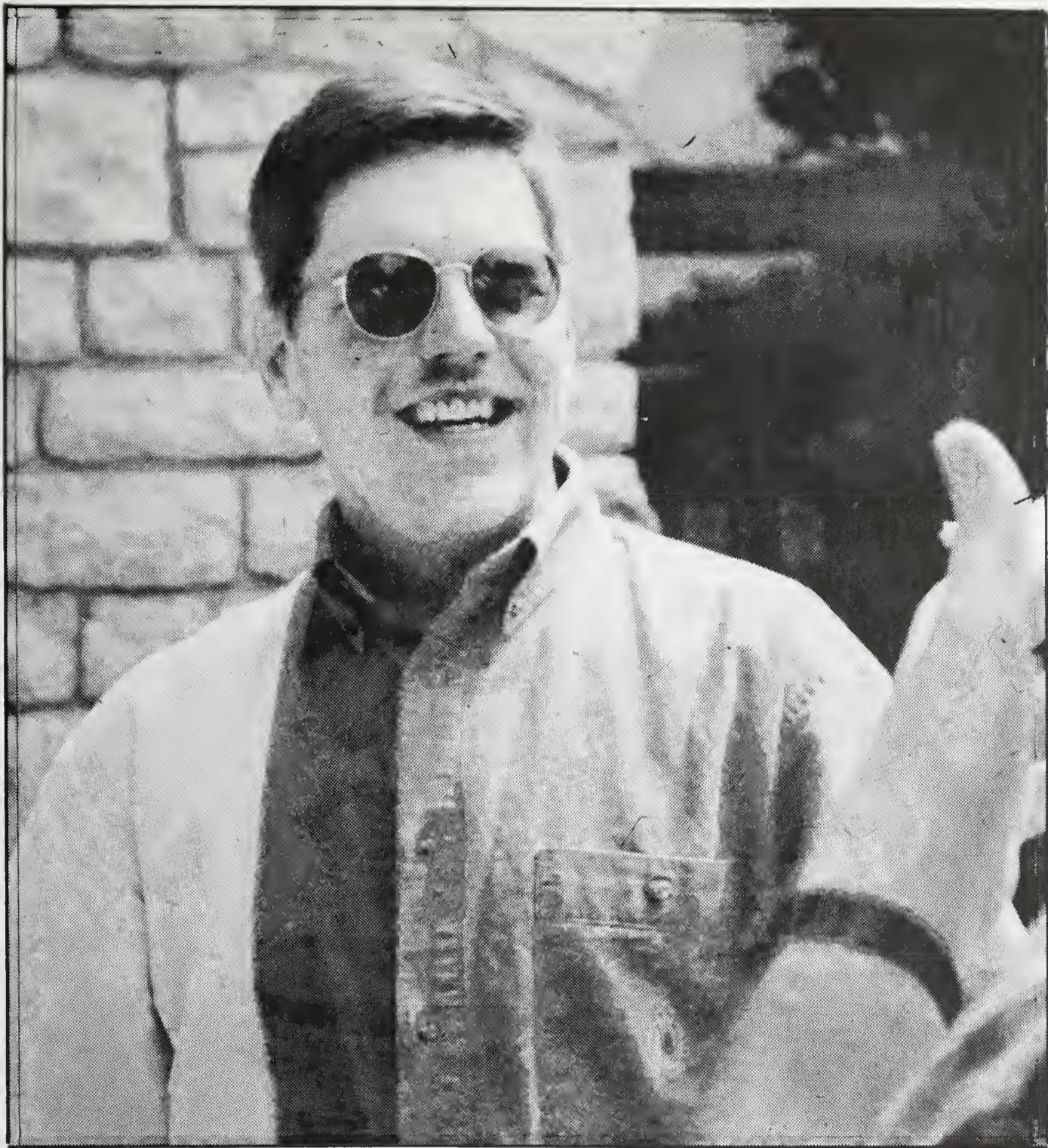
What does he like about being student body president?

"The perception of power," he said. "I love hearing myself speak. I think rhetoric is a lost art, and I loved being able to practice it on the radio and with the fine minds in the Galley. One drawback though is I can no longer quasi-insult people. They never used to notice before. Now they listen to me more closely."

"However, I like the people who are in my circle of friends at Park. They are bright, articulate, able to think critically, and I find I learn as much from them as I do my classes."

Another thing he has enjoyed while at Park was having an afternoon radio show at the Park College radio station. Johnson obviously loved his stint on the radio.

"There was a certain sense of ambiguity sitting behind the mike in the booth," he said. "At times I felt I could say almost anything without being accountable for it."



**"The perception of power.
I love hearing myself speak.
I think rhetoric is a lost art."**

Photos by Amy Newport

Sometimes I could get on the air and just b.s. my way through the show without worrying about offending someone." Johnson said he often treated the station as his own sort of personal stereo system and sounding off board, testing how far the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) would allow him to go.

Johnson began at the station after hearing a call for volunteers.

"At first," he said, "I had to play the station format. I didn't always like the choices that were made and would say so on the air. I'd say things like, 'well that song sucked didn't it?' Then whoever was setting up the format would get revenge by making sure that particular song was in heavy rotation on my shift.

"Unfortunately, I had to quit when management wanted me to work five day's a week at the same time. This was so the station would seem more professional.

"While other options were available," he said, "I simply couldn't resolve the time conflicts the changes would create with my family. When you are married and

have kids all extracurricular activities take time away from your family. Now I'll just have that much more time to spend with my family."

After completing his education Johnson said he would like to teach college.

"I want to teach history but I'd also like to teach rhetoric," he explained. "However, Harvard University is the only place one can teach that. Actually, I have been teaching most of my life. While in high school in San Francisco, I was in the in ROTC. I would teach military science to my fellow cadets. Then in the Marine Corp I taught air-traffic control."

"I also teach my children the fun of flatulence. My wife however hates it, but that's my job, I'm the Dad."

If you want to talk with Mike Johnson this next semester he will be doing mostly academic work. If you find him he'll be happy to engage in discussion on the cyclic nature of history. Or the joy of teaching your young children the art of flatulence and annoying their mother.

"Any way," he said, "I'll just be a slug on the wall." A slug that will seem to have drawn a crowd.

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By Andrea Sosa
Editor

Overachiever. That's how Kathy Cundiff describes herself. She has a reputation for excellent grades, and a commitment to her education.

After over 20 years absence from college, Cundiff came back into the higher education world about five years ago. She says she originally went back to college for personal enhancement, but when her kids got older she had to start thinking about her place in the work force. Having no idea what she wanted to do, but a strong idea of what she didn't want to do, she enrolled at Maple Woods Community College.

"I didn't want to go back into office management and finance," she said, "which is what I did before I had the kids. I decided, well, I'll just take different things and see what I excel in. Of course, being the overachiever, I excelled in them all--and I enjoyed them all."

Cundiff decided to have a double major in mathematics and history. She enjoyed the English as well, but she soon realized that what she enjoyed about the English was the history of it, the classics.

"I added the math to make myself more marketable," she said, "I needed to be more diversified. Every school needs a math teacher."

Cundiff says that math doesn't necessarily come easy to her, the answers aren't obvious, but when she studies it, she understands it. This may help her to be a better teacher. Sometimes when a subject comes that easily, a person has a hard time explaining it to others. If she knows the process she went through to learn the math, she can explain it to the students.

"My philosophy is that people have a fear of math," she says, "so they think that you have to be really smart to understand it. I think that anyone can do math."

Cundiff also says that when she explains homework problems to other students, they really seem to understand and do benefit from her help. At Maple Woods, she set up and ran a review group for physical science students to share notes and help each other with difficult problems. It worked well, and the grades of the participating students went up noticeably.

She says that she is a very unusual student because of the math/history split. She gets to use both sides of her brain! The math is very technical, and the history lets her work her imagination. She has all of the history classes on the same days, and all of the math on the other days.

"I go through a sort of culture shock," says cundiff, "because the math people are so different from the history students, but I fit in with both groups."

Cundiff knows how difficult it can be to go back to college after many years, and faces the challenges of school and home. She says that it is important to set a good example for her two boys, 10 and 14, and she wants to show them the value of an education and the rewards of hard work.

"My philosophy is that people have a fear of math, so they think that you have to be really smart to understand it. I think that anyone can do math."

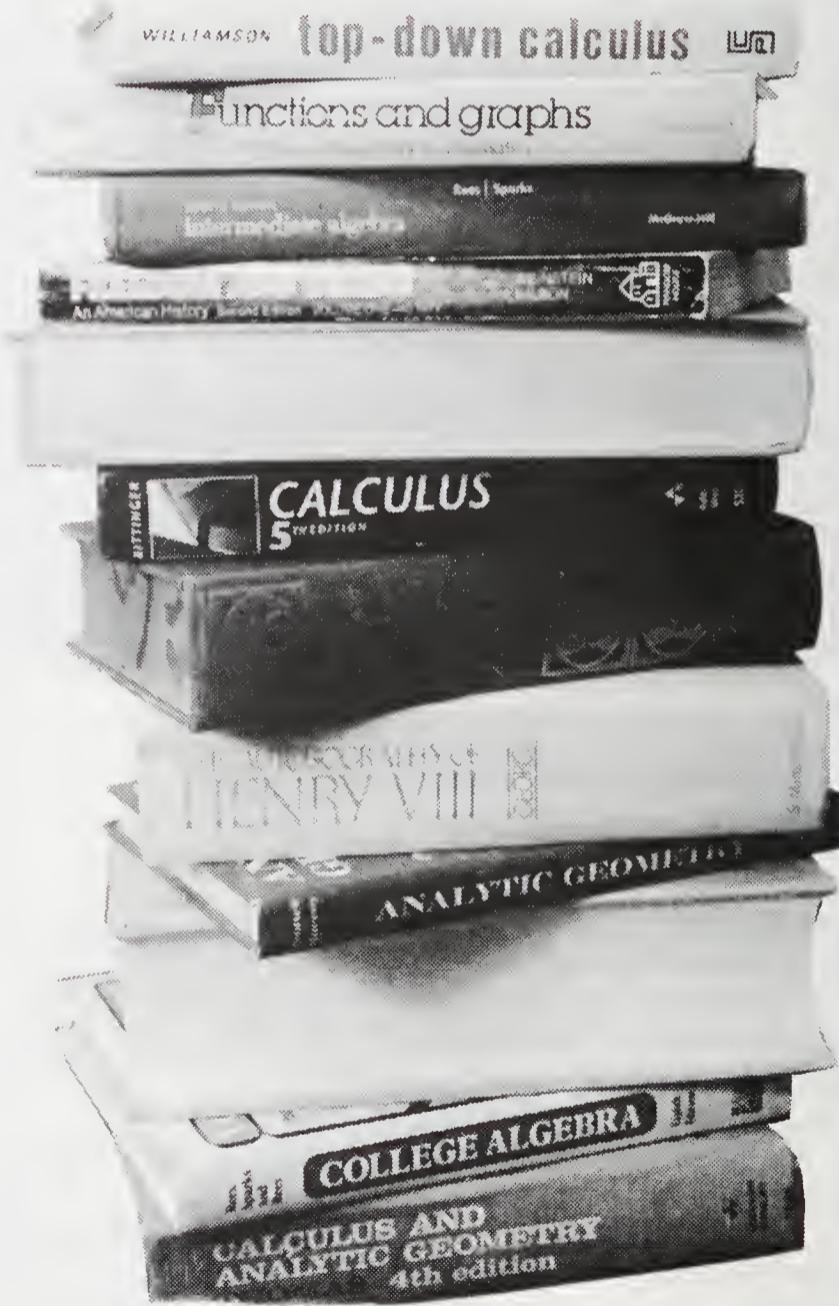


Photo by Andrea Sosa

Mastering Education

By Amy Newport

Until Oct. of 1995, teachers pursuing a masters degree in education had one choice in the K.C. Metropolitan area- The University of MO. at K.C. For Northland teachers that could mean up to a 45 minute drive, which complicated the challenges of balancing career, family, and education.

Officials at Park College saw the need for another option. Surveys were sent out and the responses received overwhelmingly indicated a need for a masters degree program in education at Park College. The work of bringing such a program to fruition began.

Dr. Patricia Hutchens McCelland, director of graduate teacher ed. and director of teacher ed. programs at Park, took on the task of writing the program along with Dr. Donald J. Brecken, Park President. After the program was written, the state accreditation agencies and the North Central Association of Colleges each approved the plan. After all approvals were received, enrollment began. Last October, the first classes were held.

Expanding teacher education programs is in keeping with one of the original goals of Park College, educating individuals to be teachers. As times have changed, so have students and classes. Nearly half of all students in teacher programs are non-traditional, McCelland says. Masters degree classes meet one night a week for 4-and-a-half hours over a 9-week term.

"One of the biggest challenges of the night classes for instructors," says McCelland, "is keeping the class interesting and moving along for such a long period of time. Everyone gets tired around nine o' clock."

The program has not yet completed a full cycle of classes. However, plans are underway to add more classes for the next cycle. As enrollment increases, the program will continue to expand, giving future students more choices McCelland says. The first graduates of the program are expected in Dec. of 1997, which will mark a new phase in the continuing traditions of Park College.



Photo by Andrea Sosa

"One of the biggest challenges of the night classes for instructors is keeping the class interesting and moving along for such a long period of time."

Creighton: improvise, adapt, overcome

By Amy Newport
staff writer

Keeping a school running smoothly and getting departments to work together is no easy task for anyone. However, Clarinda Creighton, vice president for Enrollment Management and student services, enjoys the challenge. She came to Park about ten years ago as a counselor. Since that time, she has moved up the administrative ladder to her current position and has been there for about a year. However, starting out 18 years ago as an undergraduate, Creighton, like many, had slightly different goals in mind.

When she was a student at Emporia State College, Creighton first wanted to be a music major, then decided to pursue a degree in psychology. After she finished her undergraduate degree, she began a career counseling teens in crisis situations. Eventually, she decided this line of work was not for her, and went back to education.

"Going into education," Creighton said, "seemed a natural choice since I come from a family of educators. My mother has been in education for 40 years. I myself have been in education for nearly 18 years now."

Before coming to Park, Creighton worked at Iowa State College and Saint Mary College in Leavenworth, Ks.

"It's a little bit easier to be yourself at a big school," she said, "Here, I sneeze and somebody knows about it. I like the close knit environment. Sometimes, though, there isn't as much privacy as there would be at a large school."

Creighton understands the demands that many

students are under. While in graduate school, she had two young children to care for, as well as a husband to consider.

"Often," she said, "I was not able to study until the rest of the household was in bed asleep. There were many nights when I didn't sleep. I would just take naps. Of course, I was much younger then. I don't think I could do that now."

In fact, Creighton said she has made many of her career choices based on whether she could balance professional duties with personal ones.

"This promotion came along at exactly the right

time," she said. "I only have two children at home now who are teenagers and can do most things for themselves. Sometimes, though, I feel torn between family and job pressures." Creighton has many plans for the future of Park College. One plan Creighton is considering is streamlining student services. Each students' current financial aid, admissions, and enrollment information would all be in one area. Creighton calls this plan "one-stop-shopping for all your student needs."

Faculty members have indicated that they would like to continue to advise students. Creighton is certain that through continued cooperation, a system that benefits everyone, including students, will be attained. Creighton enjoys her job. She likes seeing the big picture and how all the different parts work together. She wants to make the system work for the individuals contained within it. She describes the system as being somewhat like dominoes. Each decision, made not only by herself, but above

and below her, affects everyone in some way. Just as the tipping of a domino affects all the rest. Decisions made on national, state, and local levels also have an impact on the decisions made at Park.

Balancing all these things and still providing a quality education is the ultimate goal of Park College, and all schools. Creighton, and others like her, are in the middle trying to keep the domino effect under control.



"Sometimes I feel torn between family and job pressures."



Photos by Andrea Sosa

Mike Fitzmorris: A cultured instructor!

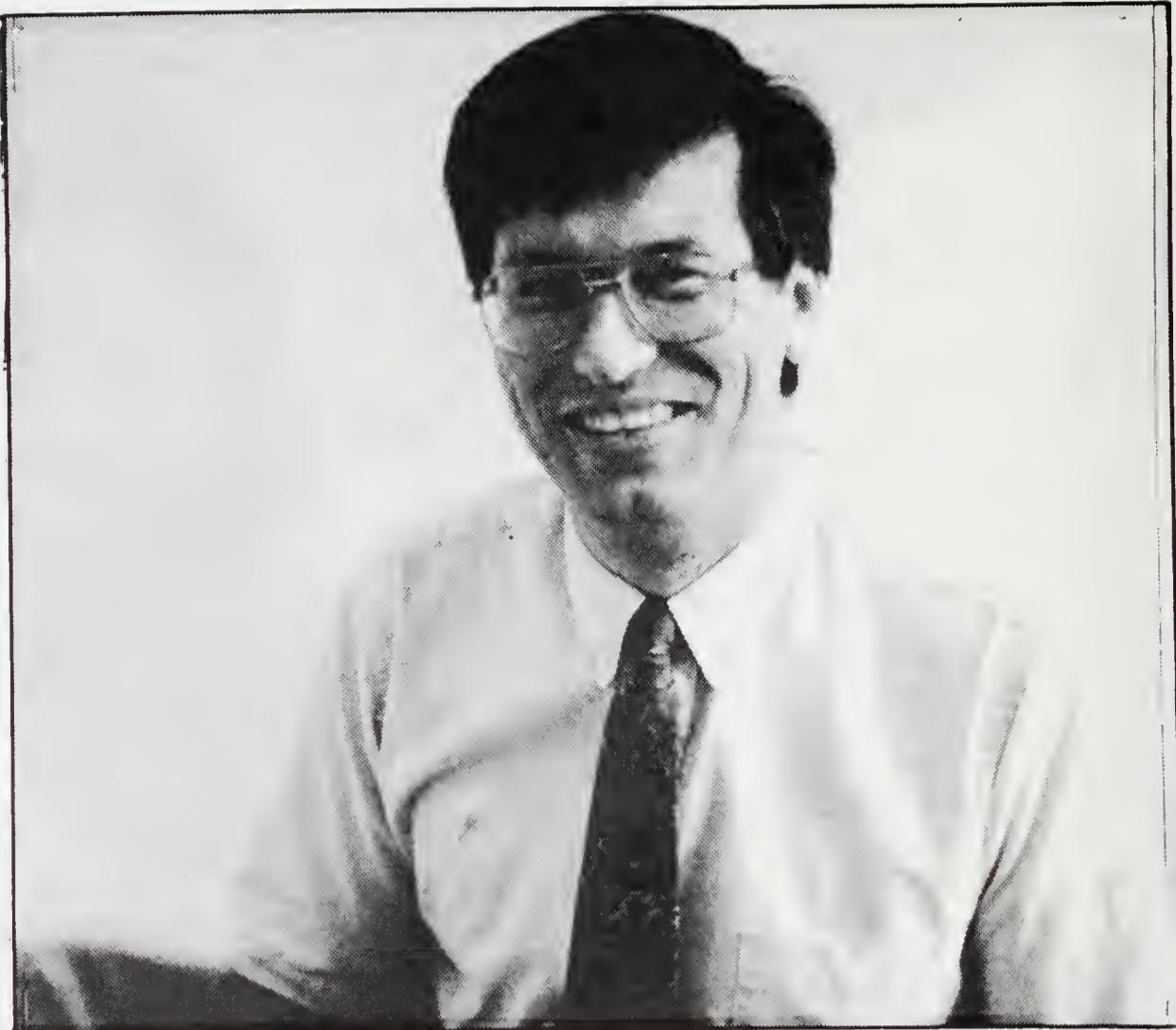


Photo by Andrea Sosa

by Laura Clark Theiss
Staff writer

Where does a world traveller go for a vacation? Rio? Paris? Would you believe to Northern California to visit family?

Michael Fitzmorris, assistant academic dean, is a world traveller who has finally settled down on the bluffs of the Missouri River at Park College.

Fitzmorris has taught at Park College for two years. He began as an adjunct professor of international marketing and international business at the MetroPark campus downtown. He later came to the home campus as an assistant professor of international business. Earlier this year he accepted a position as assistant to the Academic Vice-president, Dr. Clara Brennan.

To take the original position at Park, Fitzmorris resigned a full-time position in international sales.

Fitzmorris worked for international non-profit businesses for five years after receiving a masters degree from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) in 1988. A self-proclaimed idealist, he wanted to work with people less fortunate. As an international field representative for Children International in Kansas City, he made 22 trips to Latin America and Asia. He performed financial and project audits of non-profit organizations in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Columbia, Chile, India, Thailand, and Honduras.

"I know South America real well," he said.

He also marketed trips to Guatemala for another non-profit organization.

"I convinced people to go see projects helping people there," he said. "Within a year I doubled the number of people who would go." The organization

increased the number of trips to Guatemala from one to six a year he said.

Fitzmorris said he and his wife, Marilu, also marketed crafts made by students at La Salle High School in Santa Maria Visitacion. All of the students at the school were studying to be elementary school teachers and were learning a trade such as textiles or appropriate technology in farming. He said teachers there only make \$80-100 a month, so they need to be taught a trade to supplement their income.

The phrase "appropriate technology in farming" means students are taught technology appropriate to the land where they live.

"If we export our technology to poor countries, it's not really appropriate for them," Fitzmorris said. "Plus, if we start them using gasoline it will lead to a shortage."

Through his involvement with another non-profit group, Children International, Fitzmorris served as a tour guide for several of the organization's employees on three visits to the Dominican Republic. The workers were taken to the most poverty stricken areas of the Dominican Republic in order to witness the horrible living conditions they were fighting to prevent.

"I think they were more shocked than I was," Fitzmorris said. "I had seen conditions like this before, but this was a poverty that really hits you. In some countries, at least the children have clothes on their backs and some food in their stomachs. I don't think you can go anywhere in this hemisphere and find worse poverty. You want the people to really be touched by what they are seeing so they'll be motivated to get involved."

Fitzmorris graduated with a master's degree in international management from Thunderbird, Ariz., which is now ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the number one graduate international business school in the

"I don't have that much trouble adapting to a different culture. You just have to show an interest and other people will teach you."

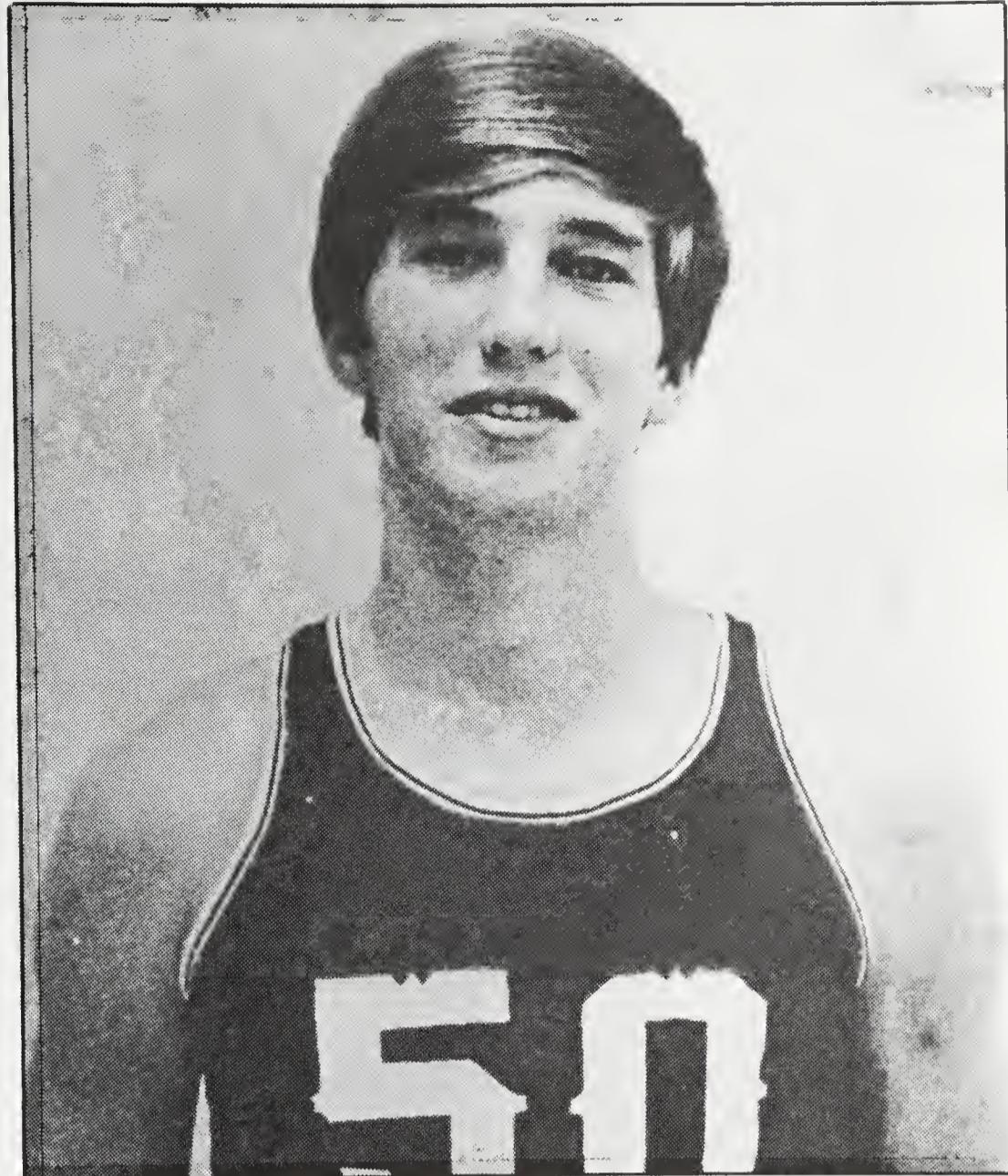


Photo Courtesy of Mike Fitzmorris

U.S. He speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and "very basic Swedish."

In 1980, Fitzmorris travelled to Lima and Peru as a YMCA world service worker. He worked there one year and was paid \$300 a month before taxes.

He also spent a year in Västerås, Sweden. He was a professional basketball player and coach. He also directed an after school sports program at the junior high.

He later moved to Lima and eventually returned to Peru in order to accept high school teaching and coaching positions. Fitzmorris also played basketball and coached the sport at the Universidad De Lima. He coached men's and women's varsity in 1985 and 1986. The team won the Peruvian National Championship in 1984, 1986, and 1987.

Ironically, Fitzmorris isn't the only member of his family with court knowledge. His wife, Marilu, played for the 1979 Peruvian National Team which finished second in the Pan Am games in Mexico. Her performance throughout the games earned her a selection to the all-tournament team. Later, she would once again suit up in a Peruvian uniform to take on the world's best at the 1983 world championships held in Brazil.

The couple have two children, Michael, 5, and Alexandra, 4.

"I don't have that much trouble adapting to a different culture," he said. "You just have to show an interest and other people will teach you."

Fitzmorris said he sees himself and his wife retiring to Chile, Spain, or Peru someday. He also would like to visit China.

"You don't have to learn the language," he said of international travel. "But it helps to know a little bit. I visited about 30 countries and some people complain about people from Paris. The people were great. I lost a bag on the Metro, and it was still there at the end of the line. No one took it. I was able to retrieve it.

"I enjoyed Sweden, but for me, it was too cold. There was snow on the ground from October to April. I was cold most of the time. My feet never got warm. It was a joy to play basketball there. The people would come to practice on time, and they worked hard. It was great. The Swedes came prepared, they worked hard. It was incredible. It was just a tough place to live."

He said no comparison can be made between the United States and Third World countries. "It's just really different."

And what are his plans for his children who have an American father and a Peruvian mother?

"We want our children to learn both Spanish and English and to feel comfortable in both cultures," he said.

Along with the cultural diversity he brings to his classes in business administration, Fitzmorris favors hands-on projects. He said the projects help students learn and give them experience which will help them in their careers. His students have been responsible for promoting projects such as intramural sports, career day, Please Stop, the College Career Conference, and the Farmer's Exchange Bank.

"You have to engage students in the thought process..."

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

"You have to teach students, not subjects."

And, for over thirty-years at Park College, Dr. William Pivonka held true to his motto before retiring at the conclusion of the 1996 spring semester. Pivonka first started teaching on the Park campus in Aug. 1959, and, for him, students were always the most important factor in maintaining the educational process.

"When you teach the same course three times a year for so long, you go a little stir crazy," Pivonka explained. "That's why you have to teach kids and not chemistry. You have to engage students in the thought process."

To do this, Pivonka usually preferred not to use a text book in the courses he instructed. He said he didn't have a choice in Introduction to Chemistry, but in the rest of his classes he preferred no text. He said he always thought teaching and learning were intellectual processes.

"The problem is how you get the answer, not whether or not you have the right answer," Pivonka said. "That's where education comes in. You have to be able to think your way through problems."

According to Dr. Pivonka, the educational process dramatically changed during the 36 years he instructed.

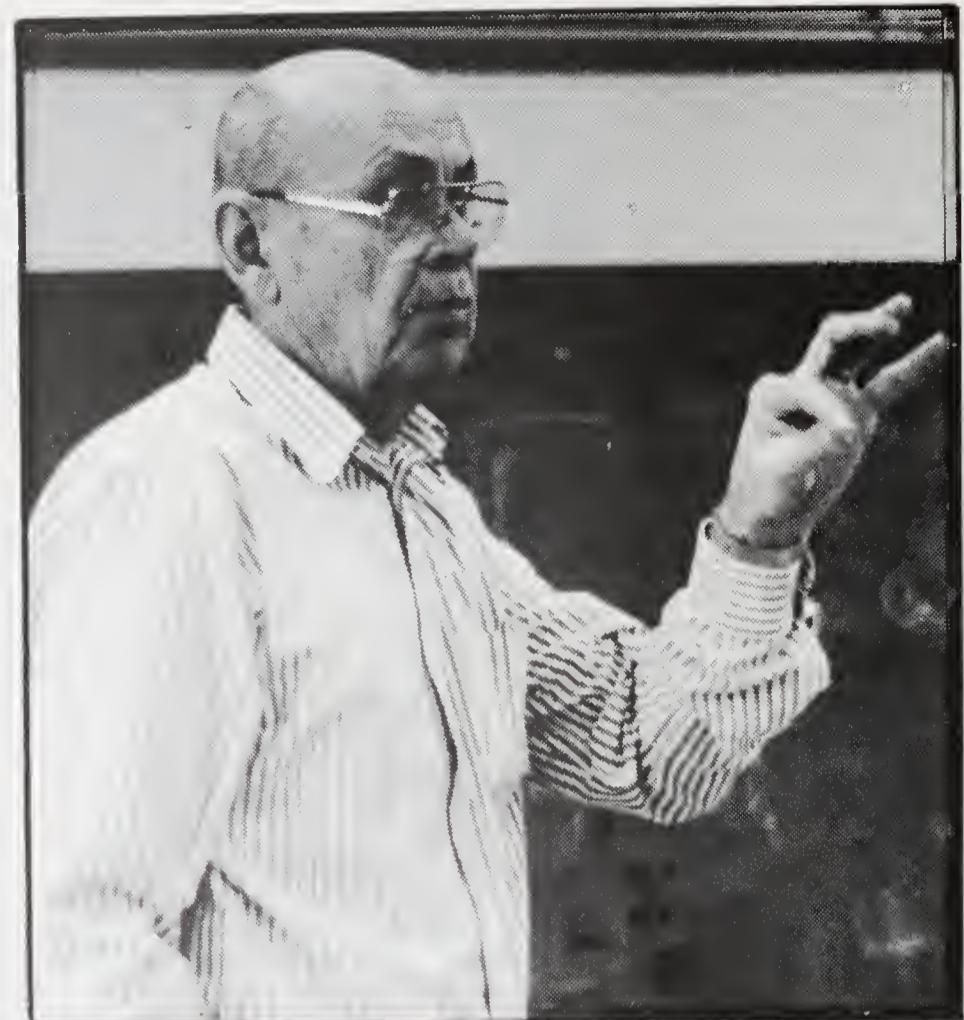
"I'm not sold on the objectives of education anymore," Pivonka said. "Society has changed and forced the students and institutions to change. There is more of an emphasis on money and what you have to do to get ahead and a lack of emphasis on morals. It's no longer how you play the game but whether or not you won it. One should be able to make it on its own merits, but I guess I'm an idealist."

Ironically, Pivonka did not originally set out to be an instructor. He achieved his bachelor's degree from Benedictine College in Atchison Kans. and then accepted a position making rocket-powder at the Hercules Power Company. While there, he was drafted and went into the Army where he performed chemical research. After leaving the military, Dr. Pivonka decided to go to a graduate school. He applied to three.

"I was rejected by two of them because I was never the best student," he said.

After being denied by other institutions twice, Pivonka was accepted by the University of Kansas, where he received his doctorate. He was then offered a job in Louisiana, which he later turned down due to personal reasons. He drove to Atchison to find out if they knew of any job openings in the area, but they didn't.

"On my way home, I was driving on the Missouri side and noticed the steeples through the trees," he said.



Photos by Kevin Kuzma

"I had ridden past Park on train rides from Kansas City to Atchison but had never given the school a second thought. I don't know what made me turn in here, but I did and (one week later) I was offered a position on staff."

Pivonka flourished at Park, creating strong ties with fellow instructors and members of administration, which eventually lead to his becoming a dean. Although, his proudest achievements at Park still focus on his involvement with students.

"The kids who have written back and said Chemistry was all right, but what I really learned about was life, that's what makes me proud," he said.

Pivonka has several plans for his newly found retirement. No longer teaching a 7:30 a.m. class and not having to keep 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. office hours allowed him to make his first decision of retirement.

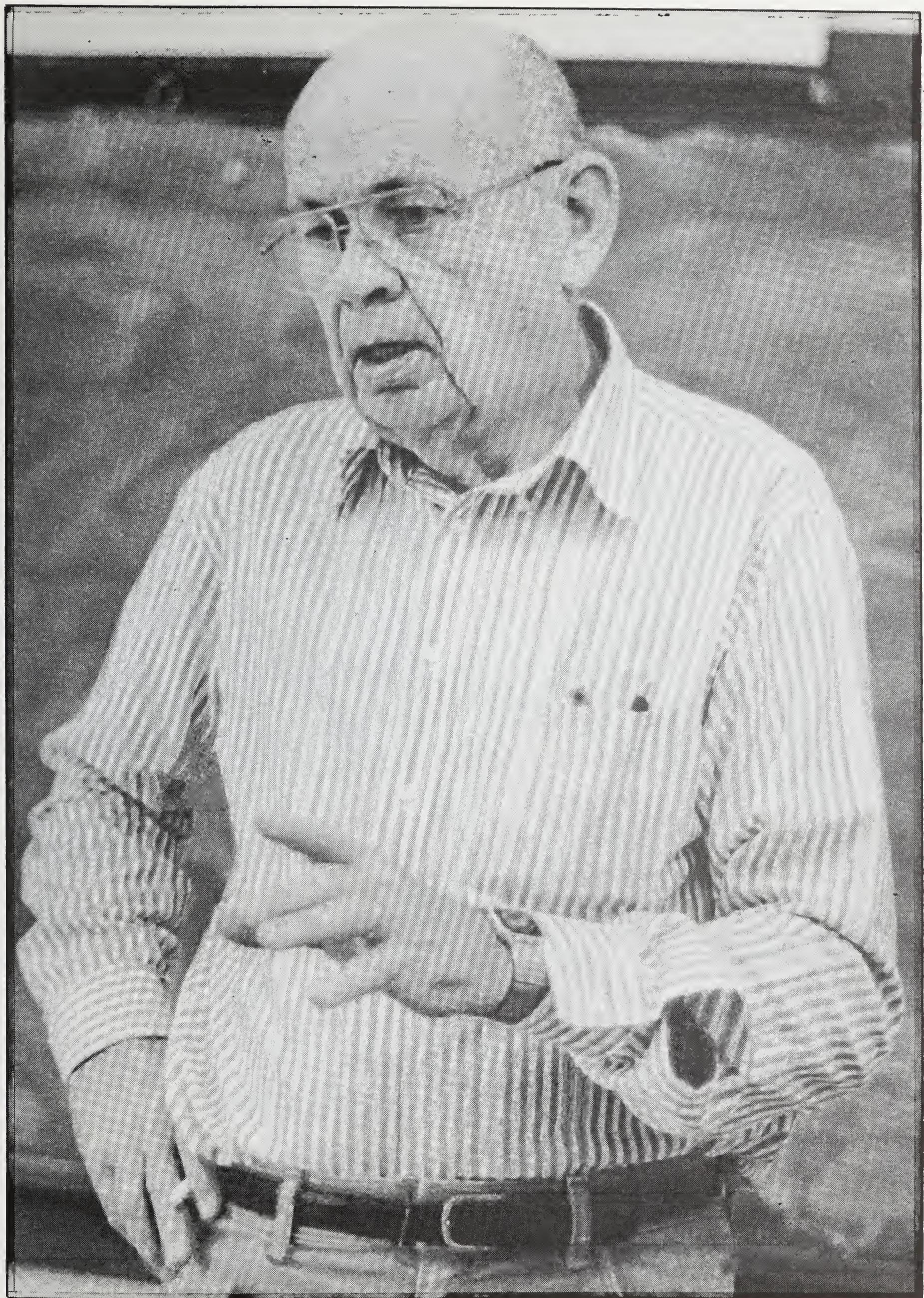
"The first thing I'm going to do is turn off the alarm clock," he said.

Pivonka also plans on lending a helping hand to Habitat for Humanity by making furniture, a hobby he enjoys on his free time. Other activities will include visiting his grandchildren, helping his wife with her charity involvements, learning how to play the organ and possibly publishing chemistry notes he has written.

"I don't necessarily want to write a book, but I may publish the notes I've written," he said. "I figure I have lots of stuff I can do. I'll just wait until I get bored and then find something."

Through out his thirty-six year career, Pivonka consistently argued it's not the outcome of a situation that's important, but the effort you put into it.

"I always tell my students, it's not if you were successful but whether or not you gave it an honest shot that's important," he said. "When I tried to plan things, they always got messed up. As long as I did my best, and didn't worry about the outcome, things worked out. I learned that if I can just lay back and roll with the punches, I'm a much happier guy."



Lyrical side of a business prof

By Amy Newport
Staff Writer

Dr. Fred Maidment, a business administration associate professor at Park, has a side to him that many do not know about. Maidment is also a classically trained, dramatic tenor. At commencement exercises this spring, Maidment stunned and amazed students and faculty alike with his performance of, *The Impossible Dream*, from *Man of La Mancha*. Maidment said he was just as surprised as everyone else because he had not performed publicly in nearly 18 years.

Maidment said he was volunteered to sing at commencement by Clarinda Creighton, vice president for enrollment management and student services, who overheard Maidment singing one day on his way to finals. Maidment said that he was singing his rendition of an English ballad in which he declares that all of his students are, "flunkable." This is his way of trying to lighten up finals with what he called, "my sense of black humor." Apparently, Creighton thought he would be an excellent choice to sing at this years commencement and Maidment felt he could not refuse. At the age of 10, Maidment began taking voice lessons. He trained in New York, Washington D.C., and performed with regional companies there. He gave up his singing career when the money he earned couldn't support his growing family and voice lessons. He turned to education and has been teaching business courses for 20 years.

He came to Park on his second trip to the midwest, from Kean College in New Jersey.

After teaching there for several years he came to Park College two years ago.

Maidment said his teaching style has been influenced by his voice training. "My students never have to complain about not being able to hear me as my voice carries well. So well in fact that students two or three classrooms down the hall are taking my class as well. Other professors will come and shut my door so their students can hear them. I don't try to be loud, it's just the way my voice is."

The distinction of his voice is why Maidment chooses not to pursue singing informally in venues like church choirs.

"My voice would dominate the choir, instead of hearing a blend of voices one would only hear mine," So, he relegates his singing mostly to the shower and finals.

Teaching business is something Maidment said he truly enjoys. He tries to bring to his classes not just what is in the text, but, real world examples as well. Which is something non-traditional students usually relate well to.

Maidment said he once used as an example of effective crisis management the Cuban missile crisis that occurred in October of 1962. However, some of his younger students just looked at him blankly as many of them had no idea what he was talking about. He feels

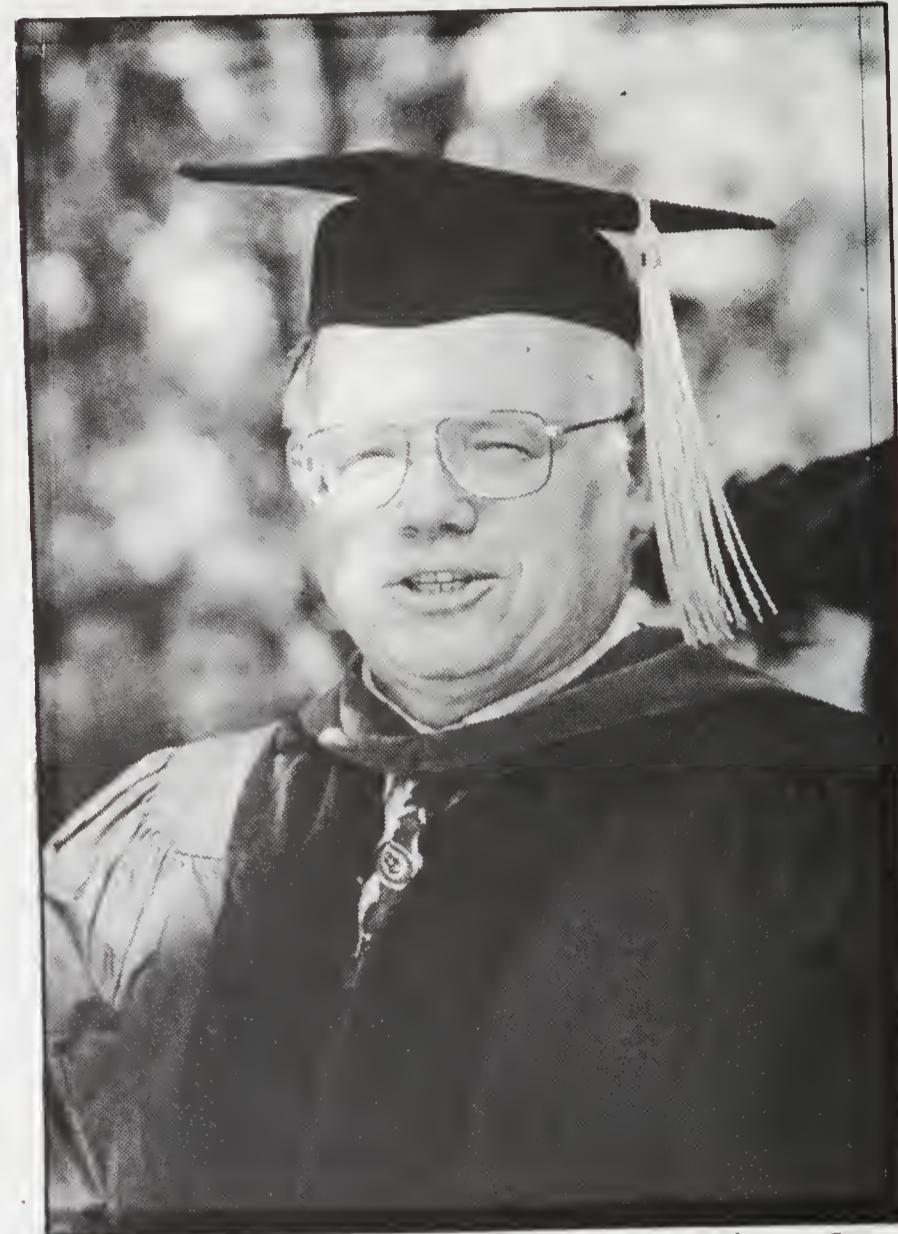
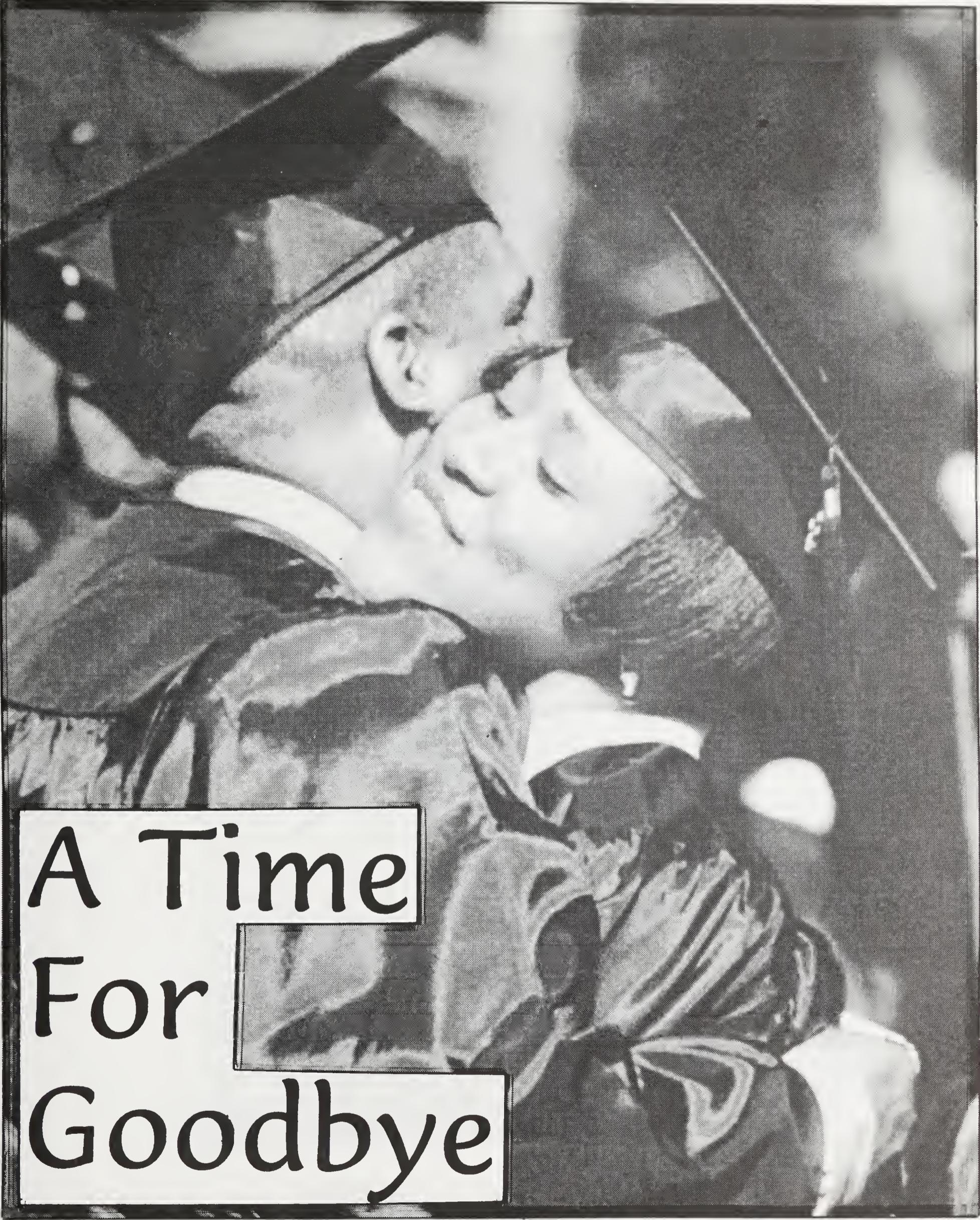


Photo by Andrea Sosa

"Flunk 'em all, flunk 'em all! The long, the short, and the tall!"

that he often has more in common with non-traditional students who have lived through many of same events. Dr. Maidment not only has a lyrical side, but he has a humorous side, as well. It is with that sense of humor, he declares he will not sing at weddings, and plots his revenge for Creighton. "Next year," he chuckles, "I'm volunteering Clarinda Creighton to sing at commencement."



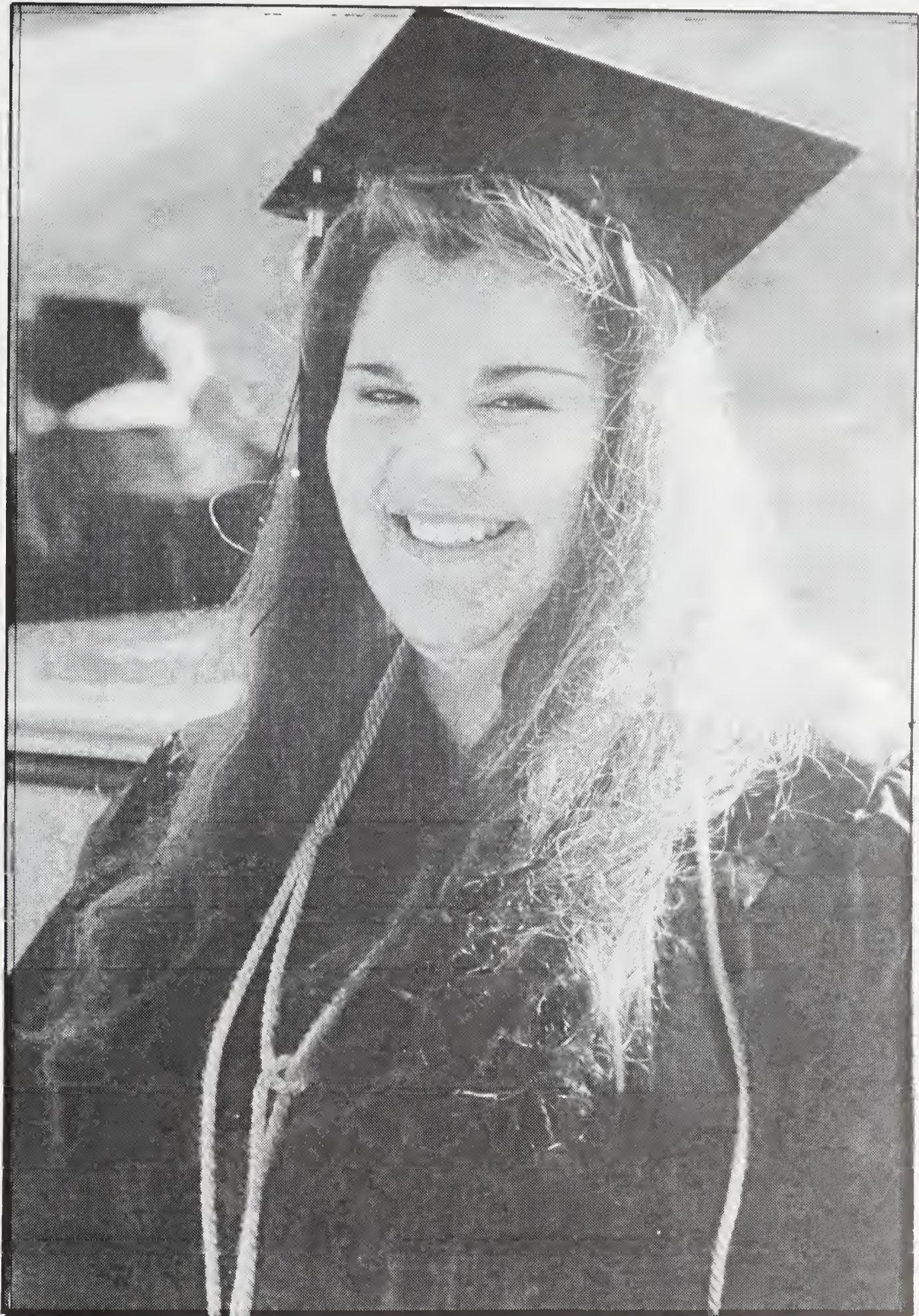
A Time
For
Goodbye

1996
OUTSTANDING
SENIOR MAN



Byung-Hoon Youn
Economics

1996
OUTSTANDING
SENIOR WOMAN



 Rosa Benigna Ayala
Chemistry and Mathematics



Kevin M. Osbern
Bus. Adm.:Mangmnt/Marketing



Krista D. Byerly
Criminal Justice Adm.



Douglas R. Schaag
Bus. Adm:Management



Robby C. Gardner
Elementary Ed.



Joseph E. Blatt
Athletic Training

John P. Vardiman
Athletic Training

Peter J. Comer
Athletic Training

“Congratulations!!



Jacquelyn M. Smith
Political Science



Troy Reimer
Bus. Adm.: Mangmnt/Marketing

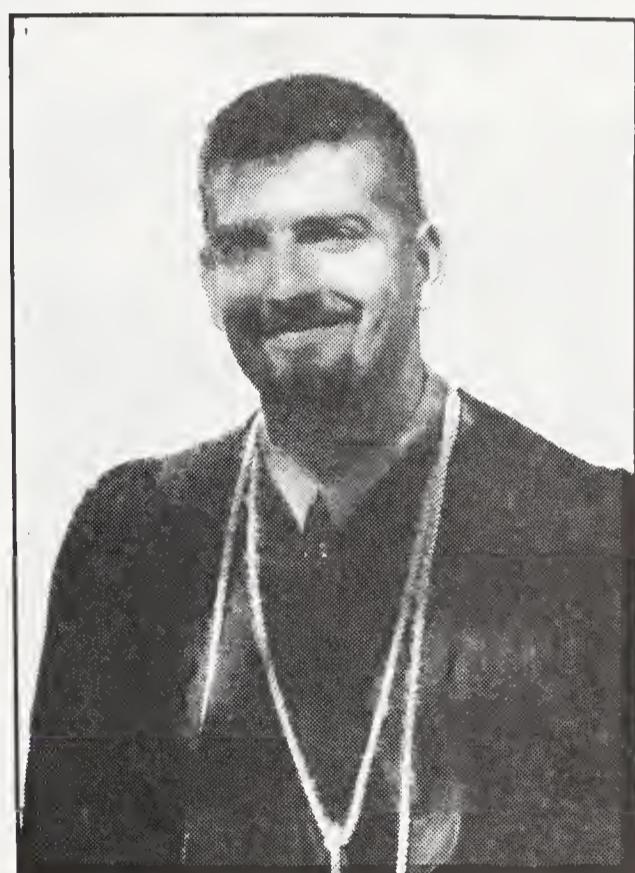


Angelique Romero
Early Childhood Ed



Crystal D. Pearson
Biology: Professional

Jennifer L. McLaughlin
Biology: General



Derek N. Mueller
English: Writing/Language

Graduating Class



Trevis R. Martin
Art



Dawn-Marie Berge
Criminal Justice/Law enforc.



Lisa Raney
Early Childhood Ed



Monica L. Williams
Bus. Adm.: Management



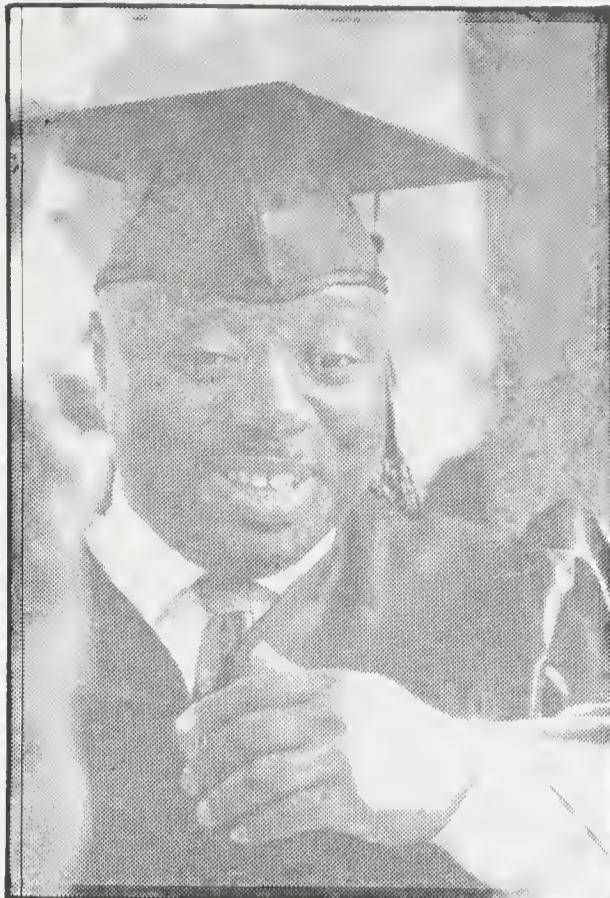
Leah D. Snider
Psychology

Megan Nied
Criminal Justice Adm:Law Enf.

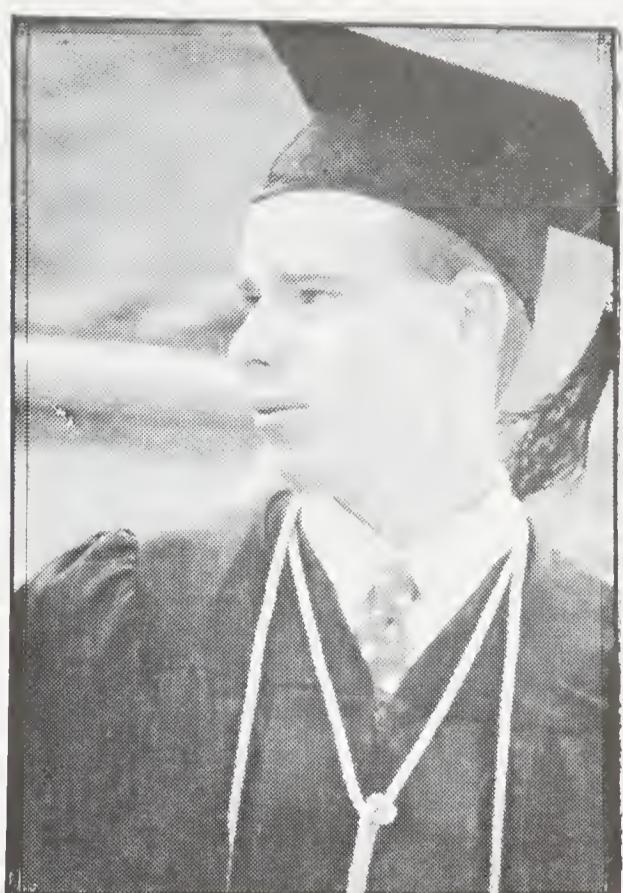
OF 1996!"



Ansil Chapin
Accounting



Harry A. Washington III
Comp. Based Info. Systems



Jason S. Curless
Mathematics & Comm Arts



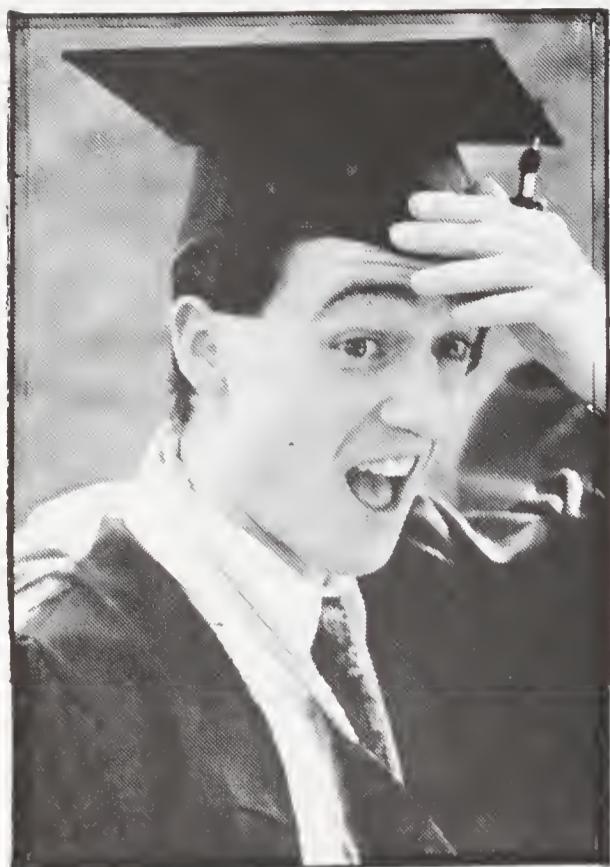
Rosa B. Ayala
Chemistry/ Mathematics

Lorraine E. Iverson
Chemistry



Dawn Medina
Elementary Education

“Huzzah!”



Kenneth M. Rush
Athletic Training



Heather R. Jones
Comm. Arts:Comm. Theory/Hmn Rel.



Kimberly Shae Chatlos
Human Services



Samuel T. Coughlin
Comm. Arts Radio/TV



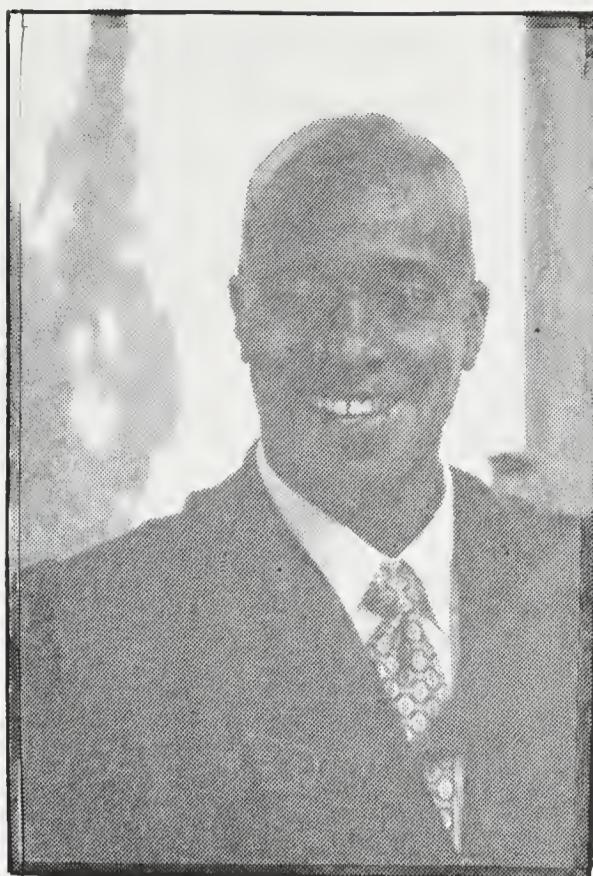
Shannon Snow
Early Childhood Ed

Lisa Raney
Early Childhood Ed

“Hip! Hip!



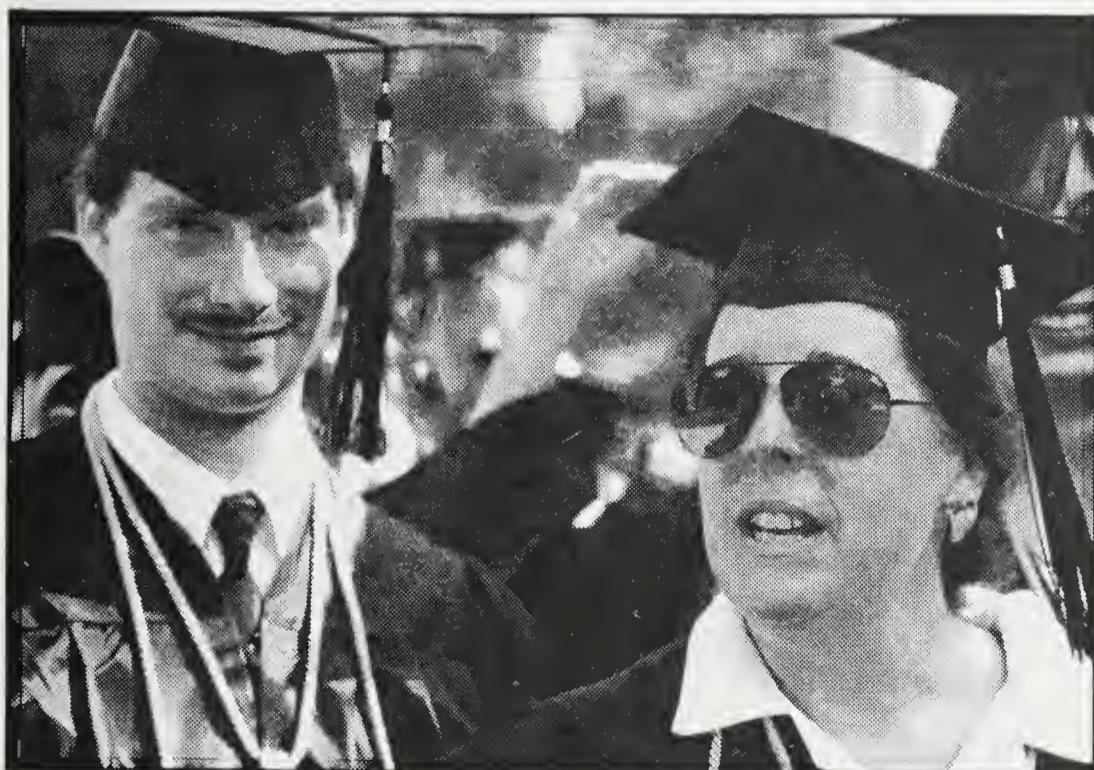
Aquanita R. Russaw
Bus. Adm.:Finance



Seth C. Ellis
Psychology

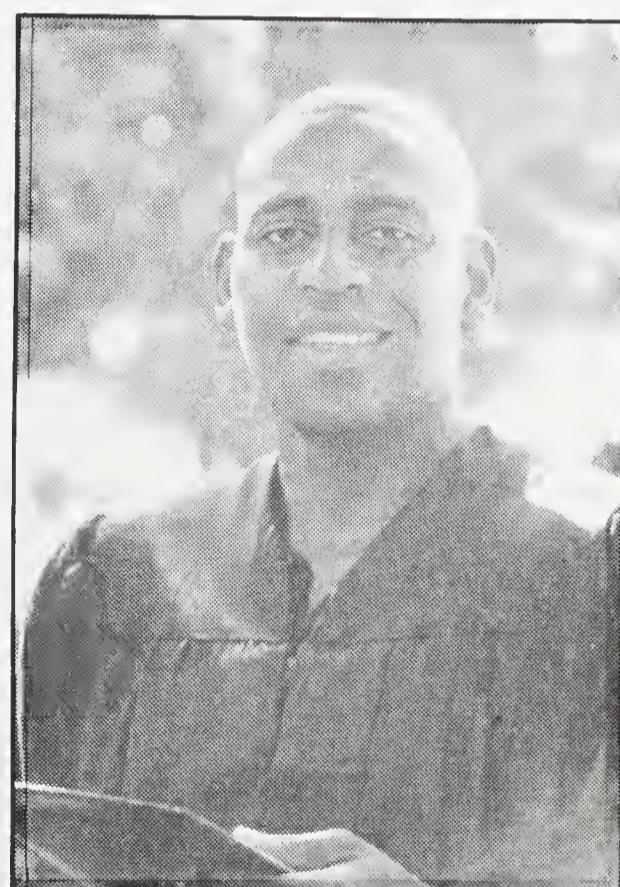


Peggy Sue Renneberg
Athletic Training



Ryan L. Kahn
Computer Science

Bonna Holladay
Psychology & Biology:General

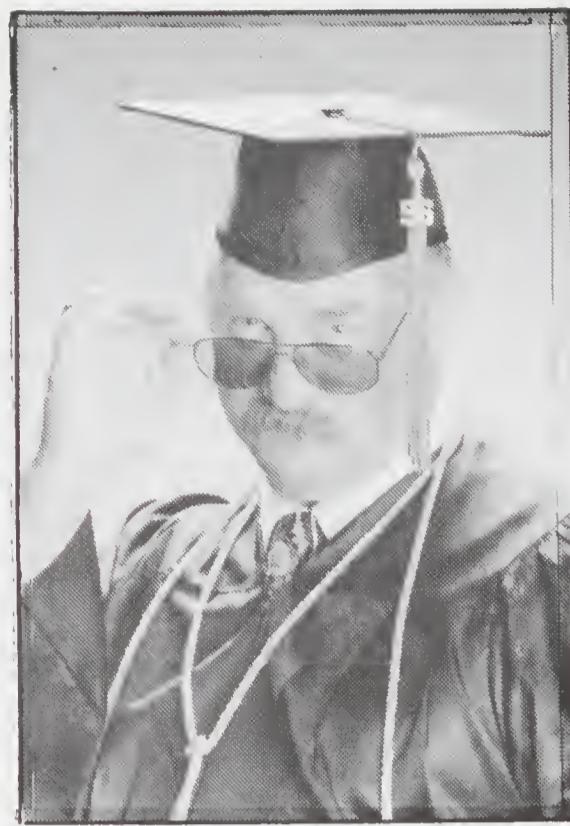


Bertrand (Kool-ade) Laidler
Business Adm:Marketing

Hooray!"



James W. Adkins
History



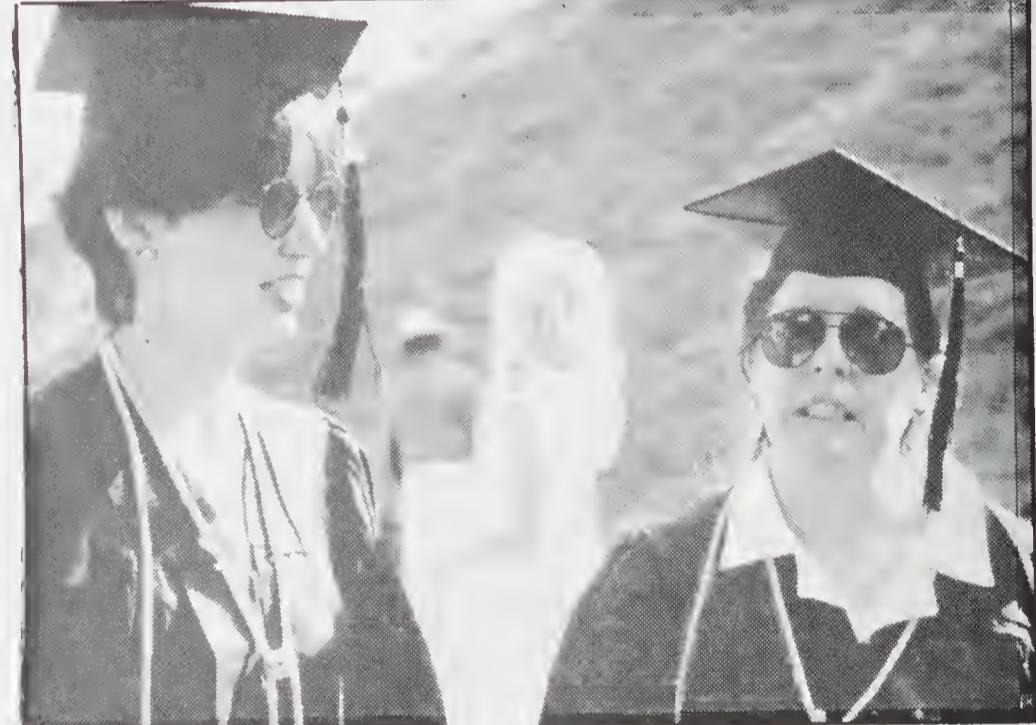
Lyndal D. Neal
Comm Arts:Photojournalism/Hmn Serv.



Hee Joo Chun
Computer Science



Jason S. Austin
Athletic Training

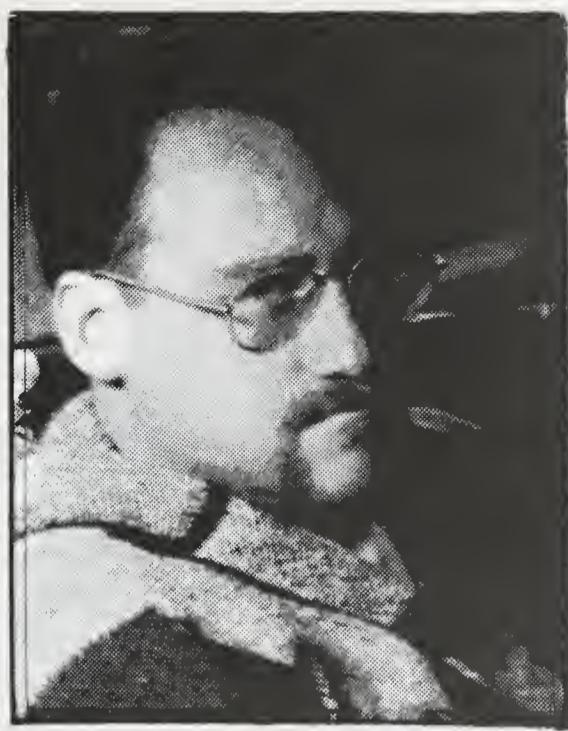


Michelle D. Nielson
Psychology & Bus. Adm:Marketing
Bonna Holladay
Psychology & Biology:General

“Shimmy Shimmy!



Evelyn R. Powers
English:Writing



Patrick M. McSparin
English:Writing

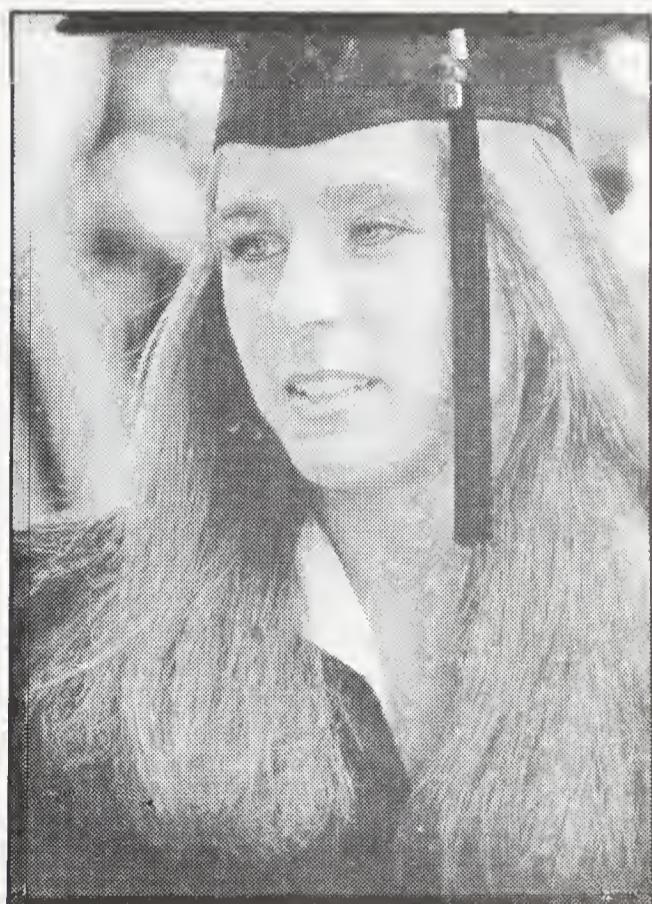


Gregory K. Walker
Sociology



Amy Jones
Elementary Education

Cynthia M. Thompson
Elementary Education



Jennifer S. Hurl
Chemistry

Coco pop!"



Glenn Santos
Criminal Just. Adm:Law Enforc.



Heather Buckner
Early Childhood Ed



Holly M. Kollett
Human Services



Sue L. Brooks
Early Childhood Ed./Comm. Arts



Camille Y. Hill
Criminal Justice Adm:Law Enforc.

Latisha G. Davis
Comm. Arts: Radio/TV

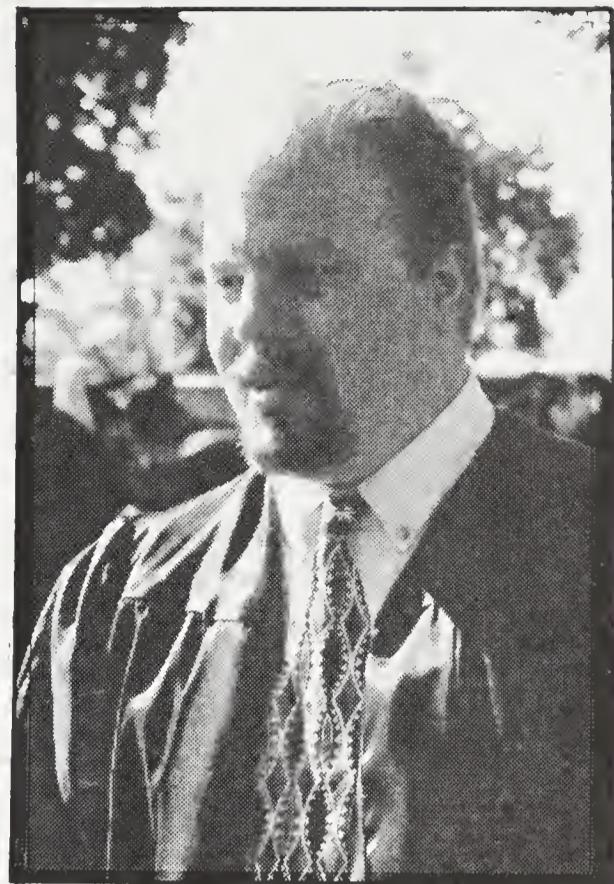
Ya! Hooo!



Cynthia Gilmore
Elementary Education



Larry G. Briscoe
Athletic Training



David Scott
Elementary Ed



Jennifer Kress
Comm Arts:Comm Theory/Hmn Rel.
Sheila M. Anderes
Comm. Theory/Hmn Relations
Amanda A. West
Comm. Arts:Comm. Theory & Hmn Rel.

Gina M. Pfannenstiel
Comm. Arts: Radio/TV
Paula M. Dotzler
Art: Graphic Design



Lori Anne Phillips
Biology:General

You graduated!!??!



Ryan L. Kahn
Computer Science



Yvonne J. Schenk
Accounting



Fern R. Tsukada
Computer Science



Mary E. Kobe
Psychology



Raymond Youngblood, Jr.
Psychology

Craig J. Hughes
Criminal Just. Adm:Law Enf.
Bertrand (Kool-ade) Laidler
Business Adm:Marketing

“ You



Kristi L. Flaherty
Biology: Professional



Emma Kent-Nwegbo
Comm Arts: Journalism



Brett C. Budetti
History



Lisa Meng Bakely
Elementary Ed.

Dawn A. Bedell
Elementary Education



Sean Patrick Daly
Comm Arts: Radio TV

done Good!"

Introducing! The 1996 Nursing Students and staff!!



Kneeling, left to right:

Ami Rohr: instructor, Tish Bechelayr: instructor, Wendy Wasson, Jean McLendon, Mary Mezzacasa, Kim Harper, Dana Driskell: Asst. Prof.

Second row, left to right:

Maggie Monahan: assist. Prof., Christine Tharp, Donna Burrell, Kerrie Schroeder, Nicole Lancaster, Jeanette Wisemore, Annette Starr, Leslie Lindholm, Mark Lee, Stephanie Brown, Michelle Massa

Third row, left to right:

Linda Hurt, Alice Olmstead, Peggy Rhoads, Stacy Richter, Marlene Poppa, Leah Marshall, Ray Johnson, Joy McMahon, Deb Card, John Archer, Norma Aker, Brandon Eiman, Cleta Lorenz, Vivian Anderson, Deana Valdiva

Fourth row, left to right:

Stacy Johnson, Janis Custer, Melissa Hands, Gary Albers, Scott Summerford



Photos by Andrea Sosa

Student nursing Association class Officers:

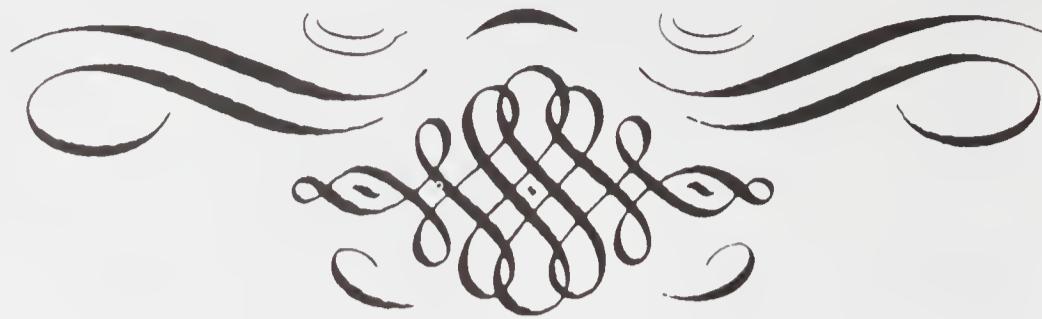
Bottom row, left to right:

Jeanette Wisemore: Recording Secretary, Gary Albers: Vice President, Wendy Wasson: President

Top row, left to right:

Ray Johnson: treasurer, Lesa Marshall: Corresponding Secretary, Scott Summerford, Historian

The Unknown Graduate



Heidi K. Belton
Mathematics

Elizabeth R. Besser
Business Administration
-management/marketing

Duongdow S. Davies
Psychology

Shannon M. Dooley
Communication Arts
-comm theory & human rel

Patricia A. Downing
Art

April J. Felker
History & Comm Arts
-photo-journalism

Cinda D. Fisher
Business Administration
-management/marketing

Karry M. Fry
Business Administration
-management

Eugene D. Green
Elementary Education

Brian M. Hayes
Criminal Justice Admin
-law enforcement

Rebecca S. Helms
Art-Graphic design

Shea D. Hill
Accounting

Kristen K. Kallauner-Schulz
Human Services

Kristy A. Korte
Elementary Education

Renita J. Landers
Mathematics

Laura A. Lappin
Criminal Justice Admin
-law enforcement

Jamie L. Lovelady
Early Childhood Education

Marla S. Lowe
Psychology

Riccardo C. Lucas
Human Services

Angela M. Lyon
Business Administration
-management/marketing

Souksane Manirath
Computer Based Info Systems

Jennifer L. McLaughlin
Biology: General

Angela Krystan-Marie
Mundt
Human Services

Lori L. Myers
Criminal Justice Admin
-probation & parole

Rebecca S. Railey
Elementary Education

David Reeves
History

Donald C. Robertson
Biology: General

Donna M. Sly
Psychology

Ruth K. Van Orman
Business Administration
-international business

Erin C. Warrem
Criminal Justice Admin
-law enforcement

Marvin K. Watson
Computer Science

Angela D. Wills
Elementary Education

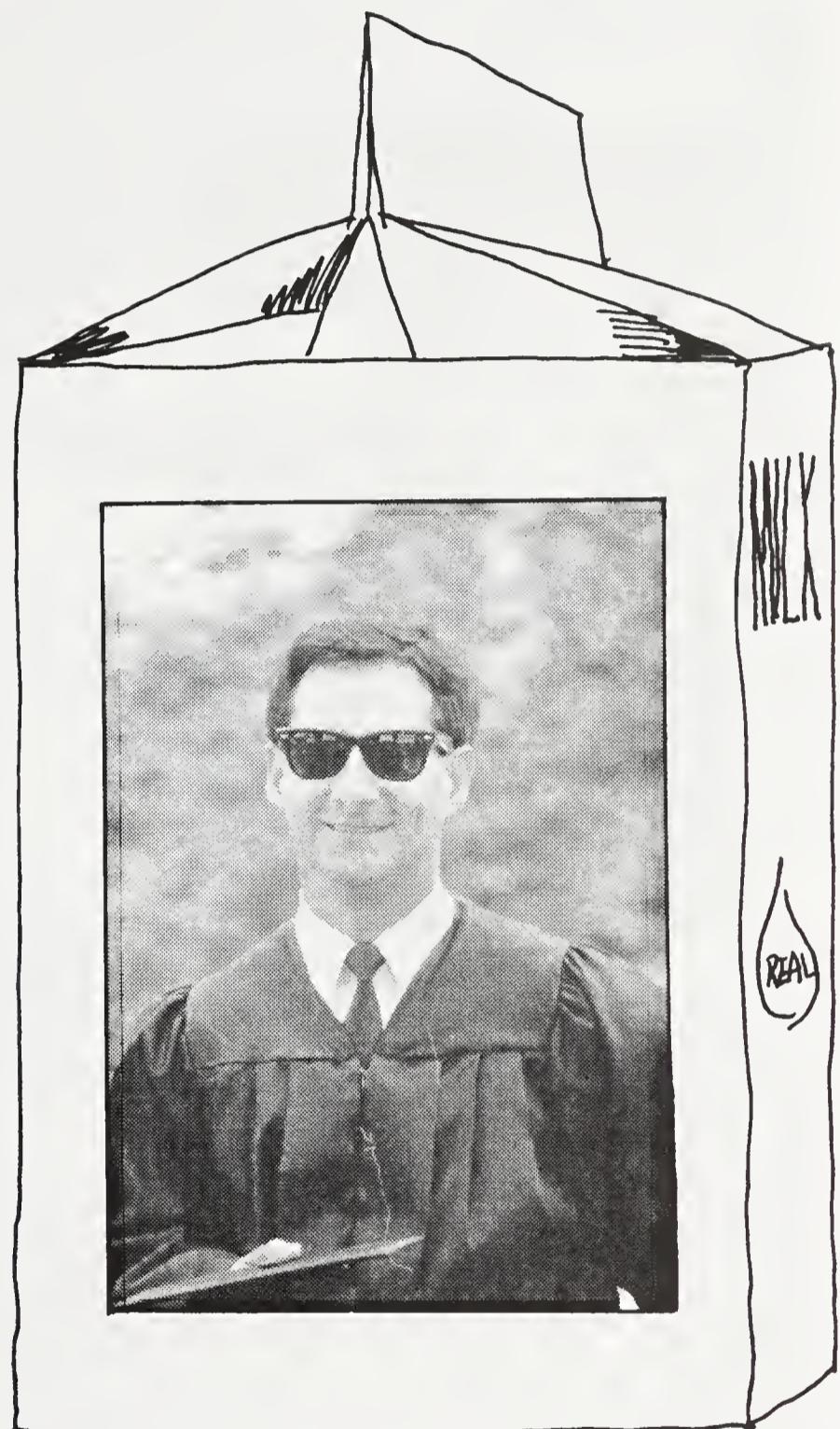
(The students on this page are those who did not walk on graduation day, or who were not able to be photographed on the day of graduation. The following pages are those students who were photographed, but were not identified by name.)



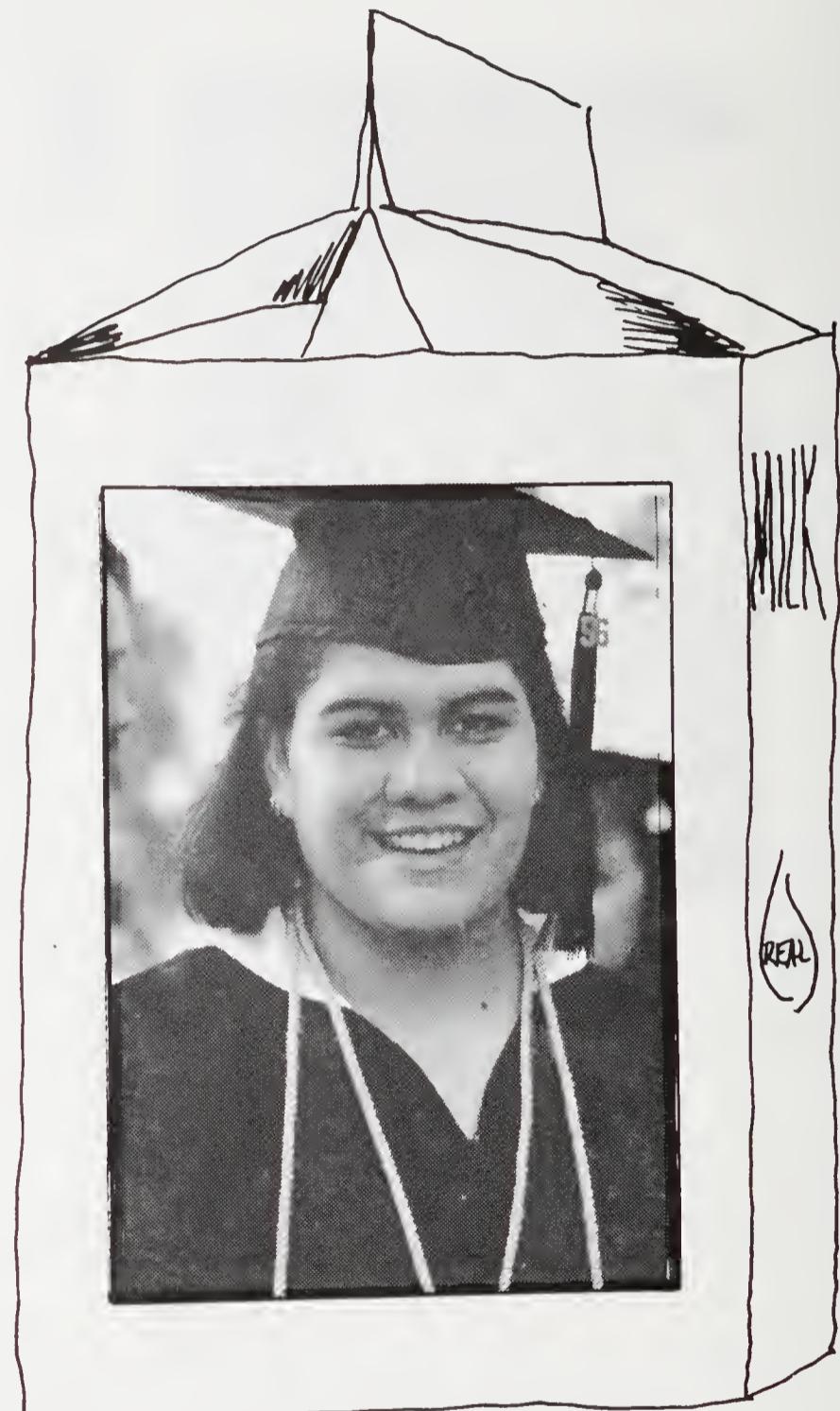
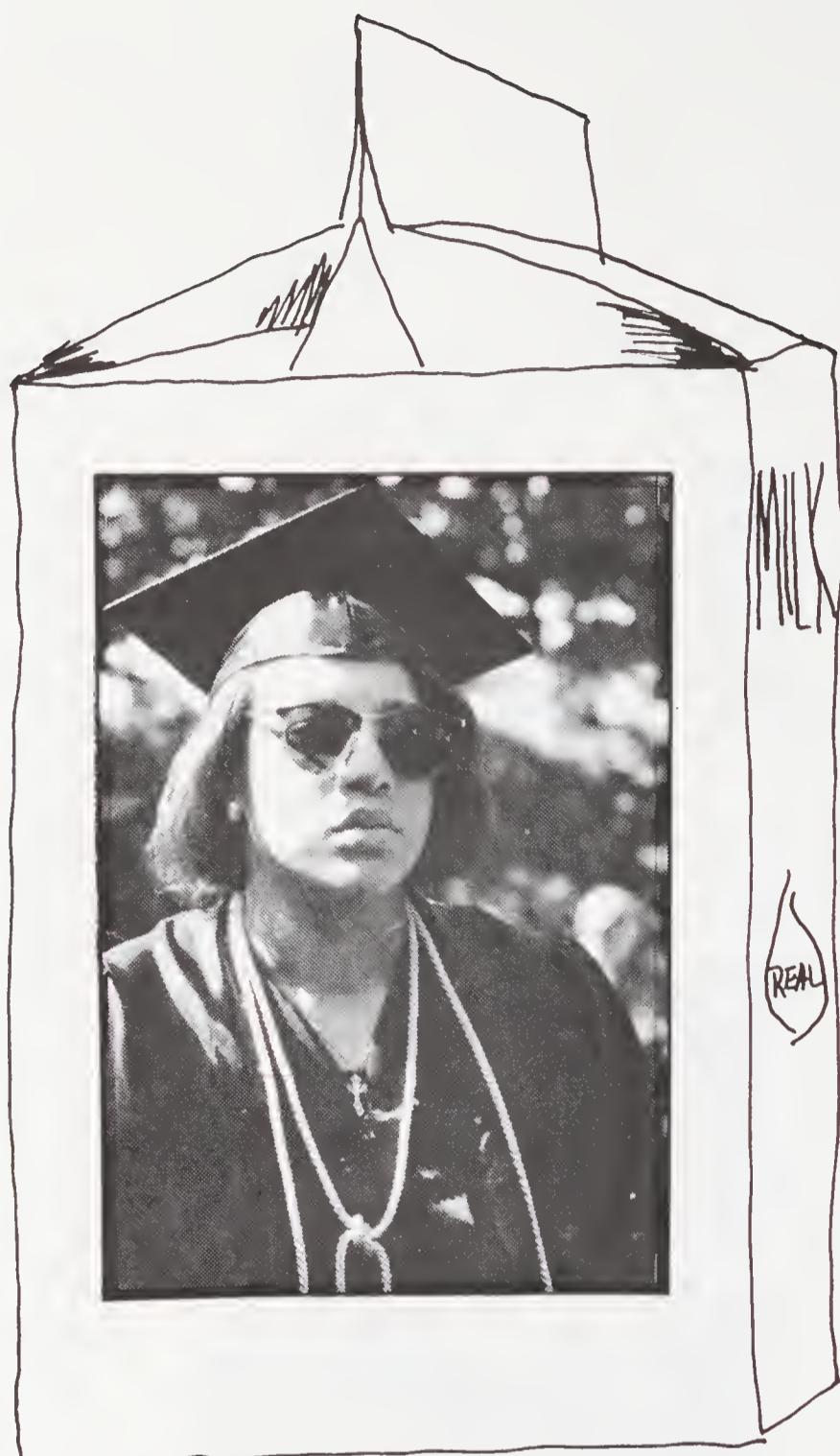
HAVE YOU SEEN ME?



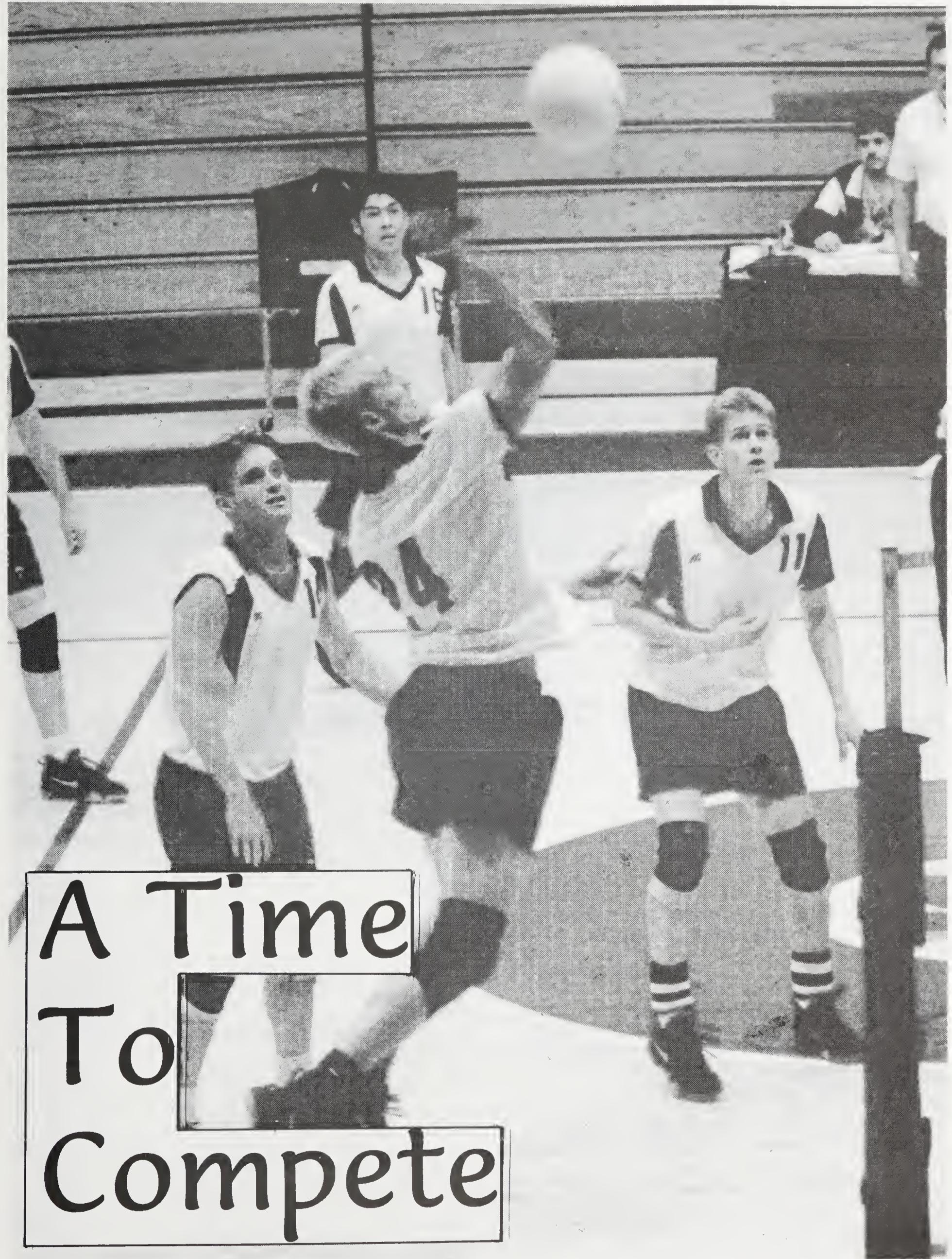
LAST SEEN:



MAY 18, 1996



**CONGRATS!
UNKNOWN GRADS!**



A Time
To
Compete

Freezing rain, turf end women's season of wins



Photos by Lyndal Neal

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

It took additional playing time, freezing rain, and an unfamiliar playing surface for the Park College women's soccer team to finish their season in defeat at the hands of conference rival Lindenwood in the Regional Championships. In overtime, with the elements mounted against them, the Lady Pirates failed to outscore the Lady Lions on their opponent's astroturf field and fell by a score of three goals to one.

According to 1995 women's soccer head coach, Ben Popoola, the astroturf surface and the inclement weather were just enough to throw the Lady Pirates off of their usual game.

"We were just unfortunate to have to play the Regional Championship in that kind of weather, on astroturf," said Popoola. "It was 20 degrees and it rained from the start till the finish. That made the difference. The turf was very wet and slippery and turned the game into a test of mental toughness, rather than a test of the girl's skills. I wasn't able to go to my bench because none of my subs could feel their feet due to the cold. Maybe it's because more of their girls are from that area and a lot of mine are from warmer climates, but they just couldn't take the weather."

Despite their early dismissal in the bid for the national championship, the Lady Pirates compiled a highly respectable 22-2-1 overall record, a 14 game winning streak, and achieved a number two national ranking near the end of the regular season. Also, senior

Leah Snider received post-season honors when she was selected to play in the Umbro Select College All-Star classic held in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Perhaps the biggest news of the year came after the conclusion of the 1995 soccer season when head coach Ben Popoola resigned his head coaching and athletic director positions. Popoola, who cited personal reasons as the reason for his departure, left behind him a stellar legacy of athletics at Park College. Among his most outstanding achievements were a combined men's and women's soccer record of 362-87-8 (men 201-63-5, women 161-24-3), a 1984 selection as National Coach of the Year, and his introduction of women's soccer at Park College in 1988.

In the spring, Matt Clark, a 1983 graduate of Illinois State University and former professional soccer player, was appointed as the new head coach of both men's and women's soccer at Park College. Clark brings with him coaching experience from head coaching positions held at Trinity College and, most recently, Huntingdon, Al.

Ready to make a lasting impression, Clark took over the Park soccer program with goals already set and his mind focused at the task at hand.

"My immediate goal is to add structure and discipline," Clark said. "My medium term goals fall into next season. I want both my teams to hold a minimum 3.0 G.P.A. I also want both teams to be conference champs and I feel that's realistic on both sides. My long term goal, within 3-5 years, is a national tournament appearance—at least one apiece."



A tough team makes up for a tough season



Photo by Lyndal Neal

"This experience just shows how important it is to start off strong and to play good right off the bat." -Tommy Slaughter

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

After knocking off Wisconsin-Platteville and putting away Penn State, Park College's men's volleyball team fell to two top ten ranked squads and suffered a loss in a vengeful rematch with Wisconsin-Platteville in the national tournament.

The Pirates, carrying a 48-15 regular season record, suffered their first loss in a key match-up with Arizona State and then fell the following day to Navy. Park came into the season ending events ranked 12th in the nation, but the Sun Devils and Midshipmen proved too strong in these mid-tournament confrontations.

However, Park's tournament activities were far from over as they went on to defeat North Texas, Miami-Ohio, and Tri-State before losing to Wisconsin-Platteville. The Pirates finished the tournament on an up note with a final win over Baylor. Park completed the season as the 25th ranked squad in the country.

Even though the tournament outcome wasn't quite what the Pirates were hoping for, the overall outcome was far from a waste. Team captain Tommy Slaughter offered his outlook on how the team gained from tournament experience.

"The competition was good," Slaughter said. "We were just inconsistent and just didn't play very well. This experience just shows how important it is to start off strong and to play good right off the bat."

Park also ended the year with another season highlight when junior Heath Kilgore gained

All-American honors for his performance in the 1996 season.

Kilgore and his fellow Pirates had a fantastic year, which included early season victories over Kansas University, Texas A&M, Air Force, and the University of Texas. But, to devoted followers of the men's volleyball schedule, these matches were mere preliminaries delaying the much awaited shoot-out with conference rival Graceland. Graceland defeated Park in the national tournament last year, which only added smoke to an already heated rivalry between the two squads. Park routed Graceland at Graceland, and then traveled back to home to again conquer the Yellowjackets two weeks later.

After the victory over Graceland, head coach Ronda Miles cited consistent play as the Pirate's key to success against the Yellowjackets.

Disposing of Graceland, on March 5, placed the Pirates at the top of the MIVA conference with a 6-1 conference record and a 27-10 overall record. From that point on, every match had added incentive for Park as they positioned themselves for the conference tournament and kept a high ranking for the Collegiate National tournament.

Heading into the National tournament, several of the Pirates were honored for their on the court play and thereby proved the regular season was not a total loss. Tom Slaughter was named to the First All-Conference team, and Heath Kilgore and Jeremy Bradley were named to the Second Team All-Conference. Finally, the MIVA recognized Terry Wolf and Heath Kilgore as members of the All tournament team.

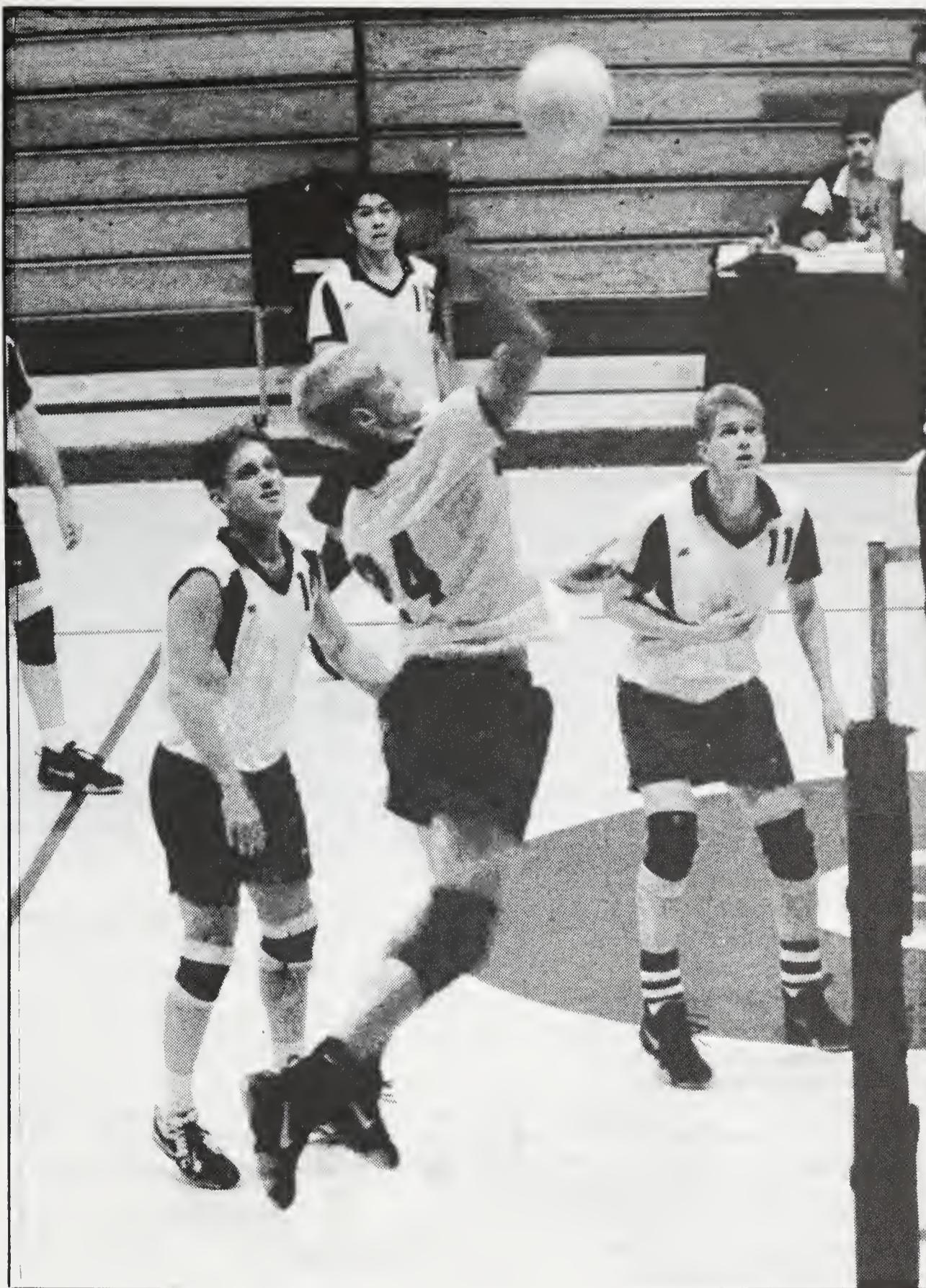


Photo by Lyndal Neal

Women's volleyball gets recognized

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

Carrying only one senior and no juniors on the 1995 roster, the Park College women's volleyball team fought off tendencies to make common youthful errors and pieced together a respectable season.

Early on in the schedule, Park defeated Longview, St. Mary-Leavenworth, and Stephens College in the Park Quad, Sept. 1-2. Injuries and illnesses caused the ladies to head into battle shorthanded, with only nine players on the roster set to play. Amazingly, Park worked their way through the quadrangular event and exited their home court with victories over opponents not to be taken lightly.

Despite the opening wins at home, the Lady Pirates sailed through extremely turbulent waters when they participated in the Ambassador Invitational in Texas, Sept. 4. Out of the six games Park competed in, they were victorious in only two.

"We made 56 reception errors, which is too high," head coach Ronda Miles said. "That means that we gave away 56 points. We also had 34 service errors and altogether we missed 90 opportunities to get the ball on the floor."

Park suffered yet another loss, Sept. 7, at the hands of Northwest Missouri State University. The loss put the Lady Pirates overall season record at 4-5 as they headed into the Briar Cliff Invitational, Sept 8-9. Park dropped all four games in the invitational and their chances of having more wins than losses, at this point in the season, quickly deteriorated.

The first conference game of the season got underway Sept 12. when Park played host to the always tough Missouri Baptist squad. The Pirates were defeated in the conference match-up, but they made it extremely difficult for Missouri Baptist to escape with a victory. On Park's home floor, the Lady Pirates managed to stretch the match to four games before they were overtaken by the final score of 10-15, 16-14, 4-15, and 15-16.

The Lady Pirates continued to battle their way through the season, taking on Lindenwood College at home and turning them away. Park aced Lindenwood by a final tally of 15-4, 8-15, 15-11, and 15-7.



Jennifer Ahrens, All-conference & Academic All-conference.
Heather Weers, Academic All-Conference.
Nikki Sanderson, Academic All-Conference.
Rachael Knittel, Academic All-Conference.
Stacey Olczkk, All-Conference Honorable Mention.
Janel Ikeda, All-Conference.



Photos by Lyndal Neal

"It was one of our best matches ever," assistant coach Pamela Knox said.

However, this wasn't the first time Park took on Lindenwood and was victorious. The two matched up at the Culver-Stockton Tournament, where Park annihilated their conference rivals 15-4, 3-15, and 16-14.

Park also posted mid-season wins over Grandview, 5-15, 15-10, 16-14, and Harris-Stowe, 15-6, 15-6 at the Culver-Stockton Tournament. Unfortunately, the Lady Pirates also had their share of losses, falling to Culver-Stockton, 2-15, 12-15 and

to Grandview in the quarterfinal, 14-16, 14-16.

Perhaps the greatest reward for the Lady Pirates and their season long efforts came after the end of the 1995 season when many of the Lady Pirates received recognition. Jennifer Ahrens was honored with All-Conference and Academic All-Conference awards. Heather Weers was selected to Academic All-Conference as well as Nicki Sanderson and Rachel Knittel. Stacy Olczyk received All-Conference Honorable mention honors and Janel Ikeda performed well enough to qualify as All-Conference.

"The enthusiasm generated by our crowds, especially in the playoff games, was fantastic." -Claude English

Valuable players graduate

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

The Park College men's basketball team was denied a spot in the NAIA tournament this season when they traveled to McKendree and were defeated in the battle for the American Midwest Conference crown. McKendree, who defeated the Pirates two previous times this season, downed Park by a final score of 81-66 and completed their three game sweep of the Pirates.

Park's advancement to the conference championship game was the furthest any Pirate squad had traveled in the season-concluding tournament since the 1990-91 season. The 1990-91 team was victorious in the regional finals before they lost in the first round of the NAIA tournament.

The Pirates accomplished all these feats despite the loss of senior Derek Mueller's services, who was out with a shoulder injury before the start of the regular season. In his final year, Mueller was expected to receive a significant amount of playing time for the Pirates but re-aggravated a nagging shoulder injury bringing his career to a premature close.

"People don't realize that we take things for granted," Mueller said. "Now I ask myself what is for keeps. Obviously your body isn't for keeps. Often when you leave, some of the relationships you began sort of vanish. The only thing that is for keeps is the education I have received here at Park. I also know that the memories are for keeps."

After the Pirates appearance in the AMC title game, head coach and athletic director Claude English was honored with the title of AMC Coach of the Year. Newcomer Walter Bethea was also honored with being awarded AMC freshman player-of-the-year. With all the recognition that accompanies a successful men's basketball season at Park, English's biggest interest was the team's loss of two seniors, Derek Mueller and Nicolas Bologna.

"I get kind of emotional when talking about my seniors because these two guys have been with me since I got here," English said. "Derek of course didn't have the opportunity to play this year due to injury, but he was still instrumental to the team. Nick has been a starter for me since he was a freshman so both of these guys hold a special place in my heart. We've had the opportunity to grow together and the relationship I have with these guys goes beyond the coach and player relationship."

At season's end, the Pirates had several players honored for their on the court performance



Photo by Jessica Wilber

throughout the entire season. Brian O'Neil, Beville Taitte and Walter Bethea all made the AMC conference team. Henry Logan Jr. Larry Parker, Jamal James, Brian O'Neil, Anson Taitt, and Antoine Newbill were all elected Academic All-Americans. Beville Taitte became the first men's basketball player in Park College history to be selected as an NAIA National Player of the Week and as a third team All-American.

Overall, coach English views this season as being quite successful. He also offered his strong opinions about the Park College spectators.

"The fan support was unbelievable," English said. "The enthusiasm generated by our crowds especially in the playoff games was fantastic. The support gave the club the added boost. Sometimes it's difficult to find a forum to let the fans know how you feel. They were wonderful."

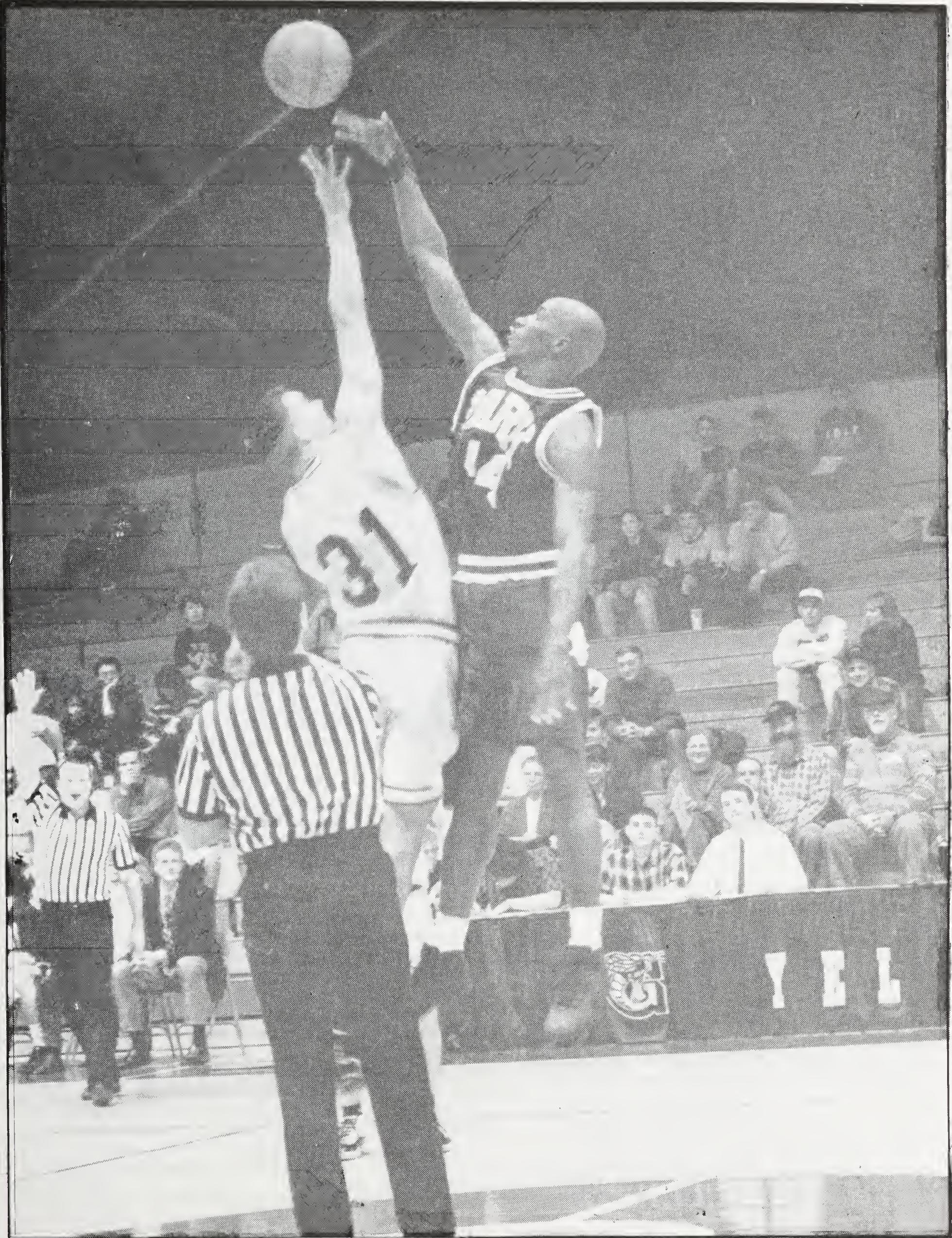


Photo by Lyndal Neal

Swishhhh!

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

After completing the regular season winning four of their last five games, the Park College women's basketball team lost to Harris-Stowe in the first round of the American Midwest Conference Championship tournament. Harris-Stowe squeaked by the Pirates by a final score of 71-68 in one of the Pirate's hardest fought efforts of the season. Park's overall record dropped to 4-26 and their season came to an end, but not before the Pirates proved to themselves they were a team that would not give up.

The Pirates struggled through the early part of the season, suffering losses to several teams which included York, Concordia, Nebraska Wesleyan, William Jewell, and Rockhurst. But, the Pirates continued to play all out, battling the dilemmas that come with having a youthful line-up. Inconsistent play and a slew of new faces may have delayed Park's efforts to relax and find a groove. A few of those new faces included Summer Craft and Jennifer Espey who both saw action at the wing position. Head coach Elaine Gonya's sister, Kristina Gonya, transferred to Park from Southeast Community College in Nebraska and received playing time at guard and wing. Veruska Corigliano, Jennifer Nail, Temika McKenzie, Cathy Jerden, and Courtney Husbands were also new arrivals to a late blooming Park squad.

With only five games remaining in the season, the ladies collected their first win against Hannibal-LaGrange, thumping them by the final tally of 60-45. This win sparked the Pirate's first winning streak of the season which lasted three games and included victories over Harris-Stowe, and Missouri Baptist.

At the conclusion of the season, the Lady Pirate squad had a number of players recognized for their season long performances. Janel Ikeda was selected to the second All-Conference team and Debbie Smades received honorable mention. Four players, including Courtney Husbands, Jennifer Nail, Debbie Smades, and Heather Weers were selected to the AMC Academic All-Conference team.

The Lady Pirates graduated two seniors this season, Lynette Overstreet and Tracy Houser, who will be missed by players and coaches alike.

"I was really happy with how Lynette played in the tournament against Harris-Stowe," Gonya said. "She stepped up and made some outstanding

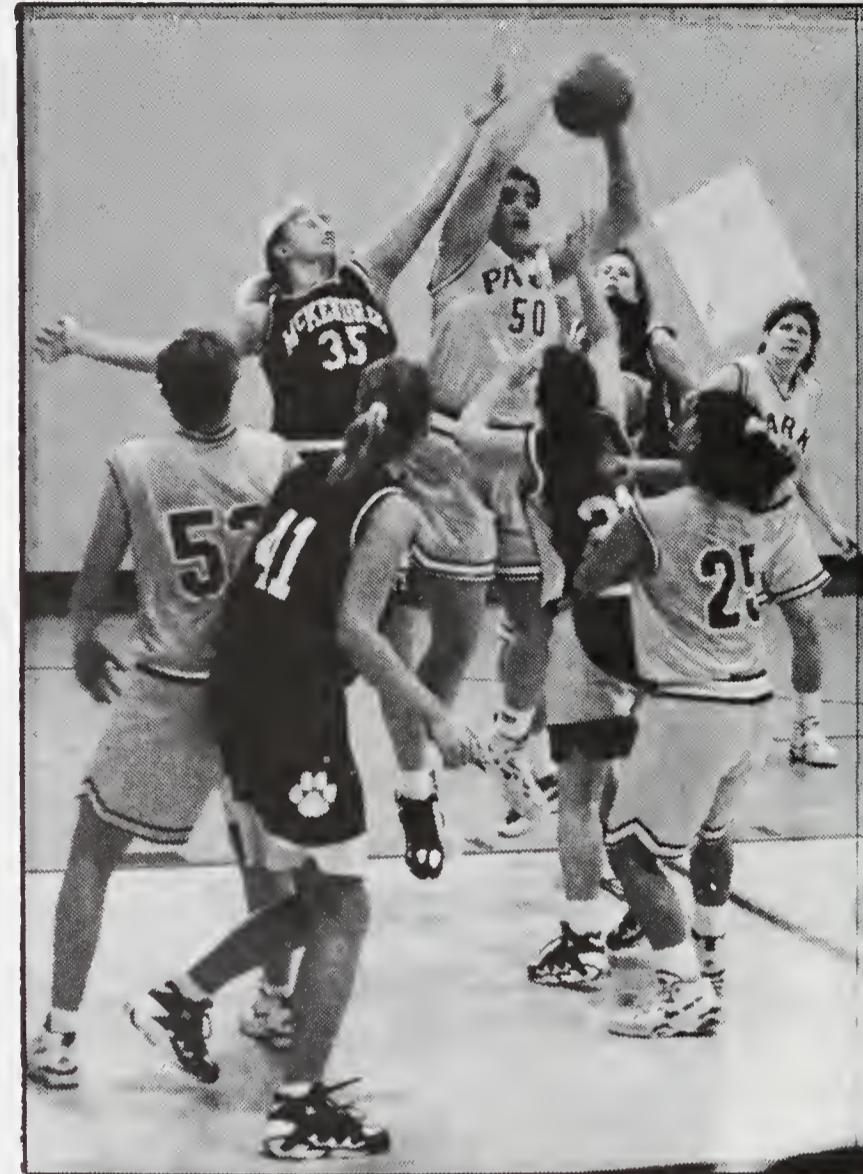


Photo by Lyndal Neal

defensive plays and had some key offensive plays. I think she handled the pressure of the game well. It was probably the best she had played for me since I've been here.

"As for Tracy, she had a unique contribution to the team," Gonya continued. "She played a pivotal role on the defensive end of the game and was a very positive role model. Tracy has a knack for unexpected and shocking offensive feats. She gave me my first grey hair."

After turning the end of this season around, the Pirates are looking forward to taking on next years schedule.

"I'm very excited about next year," Gonya said. "I feel that with the core group of students coming back combined with some good recruiting we have the potential to be a tremendous powerhouse in the conference. The great thing is that we're still so young. Overall, with the late season spark, I am proud of this team's efforts."

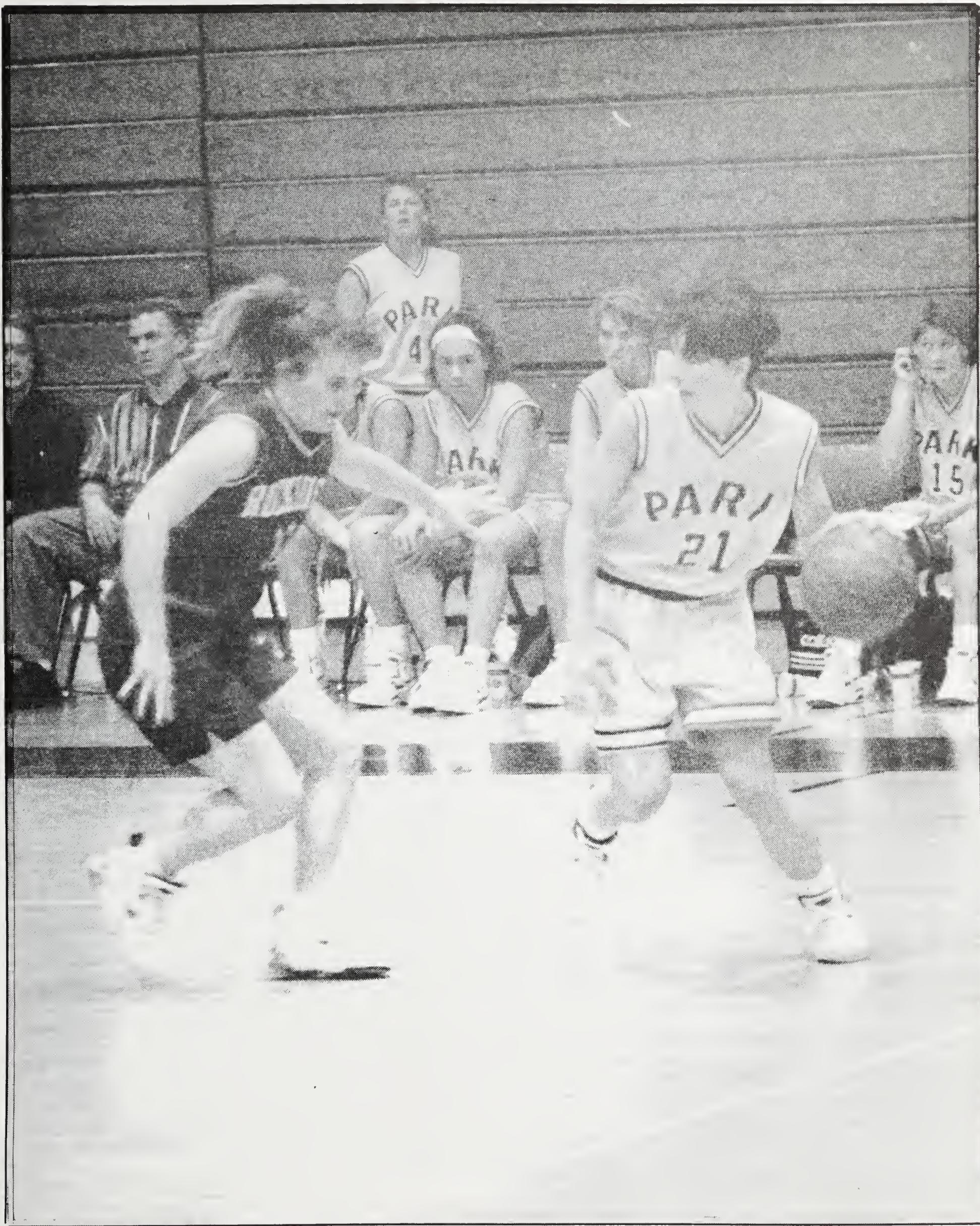


Photo by Lyndal Neal

Ben Popoola



The Green Team

Youth movement drives 1995 Pirate squad

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

At the start of the 1995 men's soccer season, the youthful Park Pirates were expected to be submerged in the deepest waters of mediocrity. Only one year ago, the Pirates posted the first losing season for a men's soccer team in 15 years. To achieve the highest level of success, players would have to wade through waist high negativity which predicted their best efforts on the field to amount to nothing more than a season of rebuilding.

Along the way, the Pirates did exactly that, only, the squad's talent evolved faster than was first expected. Their play through out the season proved they were a team to be taken seriously and, near the end of the season, just in time for the playoff run, the Pirates caught fire.

Park started with an impressive 3-2 overtime win over McKendree in which their opponents scored first in the additional time allotted, but the Pirates fought back to score two consecutive goals and escape with a victory.

Consistent play from the Pirates continued, but their record eventually fell to 3-2 after Rockhurst College shut them out for the first time all season. Early on in the season, the young Pirates proved they were just as good, or better, than their predecessors.

"As far as I'm concerned," head coach Ben Popoola said, "this year's team is a better team than

last years. Last years team was more talented individually, but they just couldn't play together and that was a major difference."

In mid-season, Park suffered through a 5 game scoreless streak which they finally broke out of against Missouri Baptist. Newcomer Rowan Fellows kicked in his first goal as a Pirate and, once again, the Pirates edged their way to victory. Then, the fun began.

Park continued their hot streak by capturing two games in a row with a victory over Harris-Stowe 1-0. Even though they squandered several scoring opportunities in this match-up, Fellows repeated his clutch performance and the Pirates road his back to victory.

Quickly, the two game mini-winning streak would stretch into 5 in a row and Park would face Baker looking to make them their sixth victim of the streak. Unfortunately, this game would wind up in overtime and Park's record would drop to 8-6-1. However, the Pirates would bounce right back with a win over the Cardinals of William Jewell. Park would soon head into the playoffs playing their best soccer of the season, looking to prove everyone wrong, and gathering their young players vital playoff experience.

"All of our forwards are freshmen," said defender Souheil Monsour. "I think they just had to adjust and get comfortable."

In the first round of the playoffs, Park quickly disposed of McKendree College with a 6-0 shellacking. From there, the Pirates travelled to Lindenwood for an opportunity to capture the AMC tournament title. However, Park was denied the title and ended their season in defeat by losing to Lindenwood by the score of 1-0.

Park's record at season's end was 11-8-1 and 4-2-1 in the conference. Coming off of the first losing season in 15 years, Park established themselves as a conference force and proved many people who expected this to be a mediocre season wrong.

"All in all, we've improved," coach Popoola said. "We played together better and our record is better. In this game, teamwork is more important than individual talents. This year, we didn't have as many individual talents as last year, but we had a team."

"All of our forewards are freshmen...they just had to adjust and get comfortable."



Photos by Lyndal Neal

A home run despite loss in semi-finals

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

In only their second season of existence, the Lady Pirates softball team slid into third place in the American Midwest Conference, three positions higher than last year's inaugural season finish.

Park was able to maneuver themselves into third place with their performance at the American Midwest Conference tournament. The Lady Pirates, seeded number two and holding a 9-3 conference record, defeated Hannibal-LaGrange by a final tally of 3-1. In the next round, Park squared off against Columbia in a pitchers duel, but the Lady Pirates came away victorious on a pinch hit by Teresa Wertacet, taking the game 2-1.

The semifinals were a much different story for the Lady Pirates, who eventually lost to William Woods in a game head coach Pamela Knox called "the ugliest game I've ever seen." Knox, who was named AMC Coach of the Year after steering the Pirates to a 31-19 regular season record, spoke about the affect this loss should have over her squad.

"It was very disheartening to end the season with a loss like that, but after the game I told the team that we can't let that hurt what we had accomplished and learned this season," Knox said.

Looking back on a season of great improvement, Knox commented on this team's tremendous strides towards sitting atop the AMC.

"We found this year that we can compete with anyone," head coach Knox said. "We had a very tough schedule. We played a lot of division two schools. I'm very proud of them. They did a very good job."

As with any other team, the Lady Pirates and coaches alike are going to miss the leadership of this year's seniors when it comes time to line the fields with chalk and dig out the gloves again next year.

"I am going to miss the seniors from this year's team," Knox said. "The other players respected them all. They all had their unique way of helping the team."

"Monica (Agundez) did a very good job at the plate for us," Knox continued. "She gave us good leadership in the outfield and was a good communicator, which is very helpful. She came up with some key slaps in tough situations, and she kept everyone loose with her attitude."



'Photo by Lyndal Nea

"Stacey (Turnure) is a leader who will definitely be missed," Knox said. She knows how to compete and did a very good job on the mound for us this season winning 14 games. I don't think she gets the due and respect she deserves.

"Janalyn (Bloomfield)'s play can be summed up with one word, solid," Knox said. "She made only eight errors and bailed out our infield many times. You could always rely on her defense but she was also a very tough out at the plate with a .378 batting average. She was our RBI leader with 37 and also a 4.0 student. What more can you say?"



Photo by Lyndal Neal

Track-running themselves ragged

Kevin Kuzma
Staff Writer

Fighting through early season injuries and the harshest of winter weather, Park College's men's and women's track and field teams exploded out of the blocks for the 1996 track season.

Sub-zero temperatures and multiple layers of snow may have weakened training conditions for Park runners, but the final results from this season's competitions imply no evidence of lost preparation time.

Early in the season, Park runners made the cross-state trek to Warrensburg, MO twice to participate in the Mule Relays and then the CMSU classic. Both meets, held indoors, are extremely competitive and sometimes serve as a compass for the course a team may follow for a season's entirety.

For the women's half of the squad, at the Mule Relays, Jasmine Sampson, a three time all-American, established herself as a force to be reckoned with as she quickly approached qualification times for state. Carie Means, Heather Cruz, and Natasha Kieser closely followed Sampson's lead and also neared qualification marks in their individual events.

The men also set their early season sights on qualifying for state. Freshmen Zac Breitenstein, a cross country national qualifier, recorded his lifetime best in the 3000 meter run and newcomer Tim Hebert shaved 40 seconds off his best time at the Mule Classic.

Of course, all of the news was not entirely spectacular.

National qualifying hopeful Brian Elam was out with a knee injury and Emmanuel Ngega pulled out early with an Achilles tendon injury which eventually required surgical correction.

"The men have had a rough year," head



coach Brian Renshaw said. "Our top people have been hurt. It's just one of those years where you have to suck it up and deal with."

When Park arrived at the CMSU classic, the meet was transformed from an ordinary track and field meet into a record smashing performance by the Pirates. Overall, the team placed 10th out of the 28 teams in competition, but it was the individual efforts which proved to be the most impressive.

Jasmine Sampson raced to a fourth place finish in the 55 meter run and second place in the 600 meters. Heather Cruz also dropped her 800 meter time down to her fastest of the season. For the men, Zac Breitenstein also replaced his personal best in the 5000 meter run.

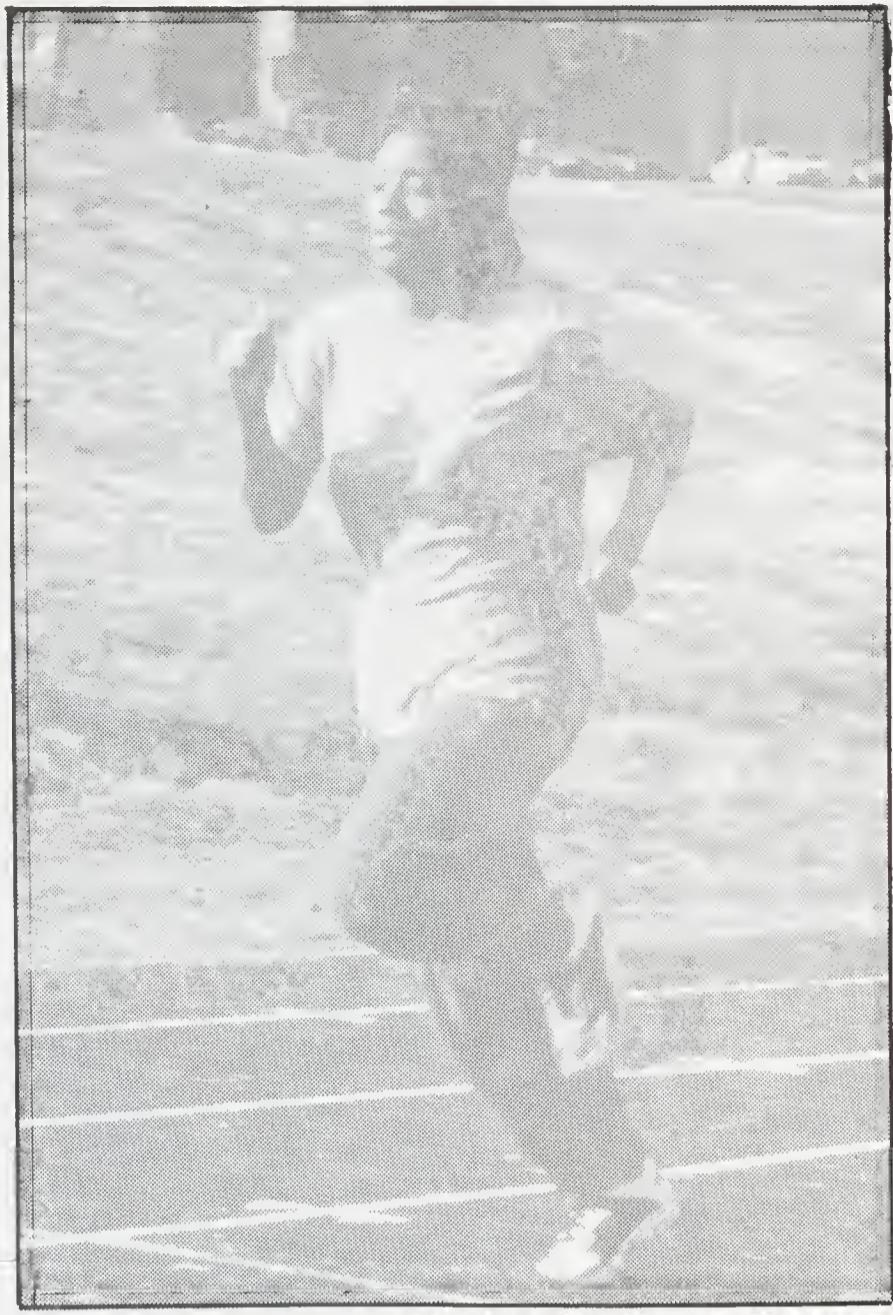
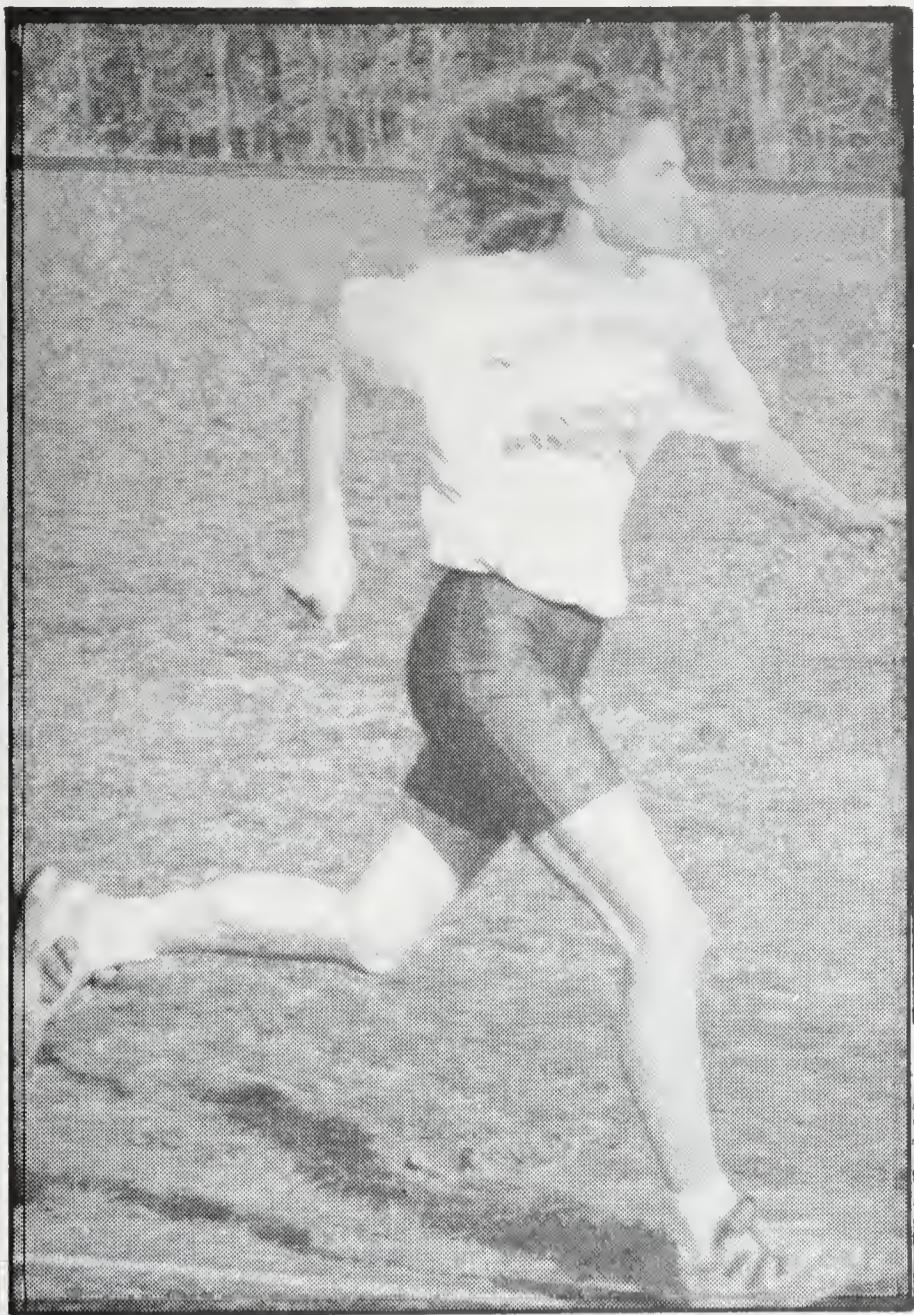
The following week at the University of Missouri, Hebert ran his lifetime best in the 5000 meters. Carie Means also accomplished her personal best in the 800 meter run. And, once again, Jasmine Sampson continued to flourish in the 55 meter final when she finished second, trailing an Olympic silver medalist.

Still, the fun wasn't over.

The women's relay team of Maria Medina, Heather Cruz, Terri VanRossen and Carie Means traveled to Graceland the day after the MU indoor events and recorded a time of 9:55.91 in the two-mile relay. This time shattered a previous record of 10:08 set in 1982. Less than one hour later, this foursome completed the distance medley in 13:09, which placed seven seconds faster than a record set in 1993.

The indoor season was topped off with five Park runners attending the NAIA Indoor Nationals, March 2, in Lincoln, Nebraska. The two-mile relay team made-up of Maria Medina, Heather Cruz, Terri VanRossen, and Carie Means qualified for nationals as well as Pirate runner Jasmine Sampson. Sampson finished sixth in the 55 meter run.

In her first appearance at the NAIA Nation-



Photos by Kevin Kuzma

als, Heather Cruz admitted her nervousness.

"The competition was really hard," Cruz said. "I wasn't nervous until I heard the announcement for the runners of the second heat to take off their sweats and begin to warm-up. Then I thought I was going to get sick. I felt sick. Even after the race I felt sick. I was kind of disappointed but it was my first time there. Next time I want to run a smarter race."

The outdoor season was a time for shattering school records, qualifying for nationals, and continuous improvement for the Pirates. The women's mile relay team of Jasmine Sampson, Heather Cruz, Terri VanRossen and Carie Means eventually set a school record and qualified for nationals at the Kansas University Relays April 20.

Also gearing up for the K.U. Relays was Jasmine Sampson, who set a school record as well and finished second in the 100 meters with a time of 11.74. Maria Medina set a school record in the 5000 meters with a time of 18:20 and placed fifth at the K.U. Relays. Medina also ran the 3000 meters in 10:16, which obliged her with a seventh place finish. Off the track and on the field, Rachel Knittle surpassed a school record with a javelin throw of 120 feet and 11 inches.

On the flip side, those who did not qualify for the K.U. Relays competed in the Baker Relays where Zac Breitenstein ran a lifetime best of 9:16 in the

3000 meters which placed him at the top of those entered in the event.

One week later, at Johnson County Community College, the 4x200 meter relay team set school and meet records as they headed towards a first place finish.

Much like the indoor season, the Pirates continued to suffer from nagging injuries which hampered the team all season. In a few instances, the damage wasn't done on the track, but totally away from the action.

"Most of them haven't even been on the track," Renshaw said. "It's been somebody stepping on a patch of ice and blowing out his knee. Stuff like that. It's been very frustrating."

After the conclusion of the meet at Johnson County, the Pirate squad earned a weekend off, but Jasmine Sampson refused to rest and spent her time off attempting to qualify for the Olympic trials in the 200 meters.

Sampson's tremendous efforts and hours of preparation earned her a National Championship in the 100 meters and a second place finish in the 200 meters. However, Sampson did not receive a spot on the 1996 U.S. Olympic team, failing to fall within the top 32 fastest women's times in the country.

The women finished the season ranked 11th in the nation and the men had no qualifiers at Nationals.



John Thomas Weigand

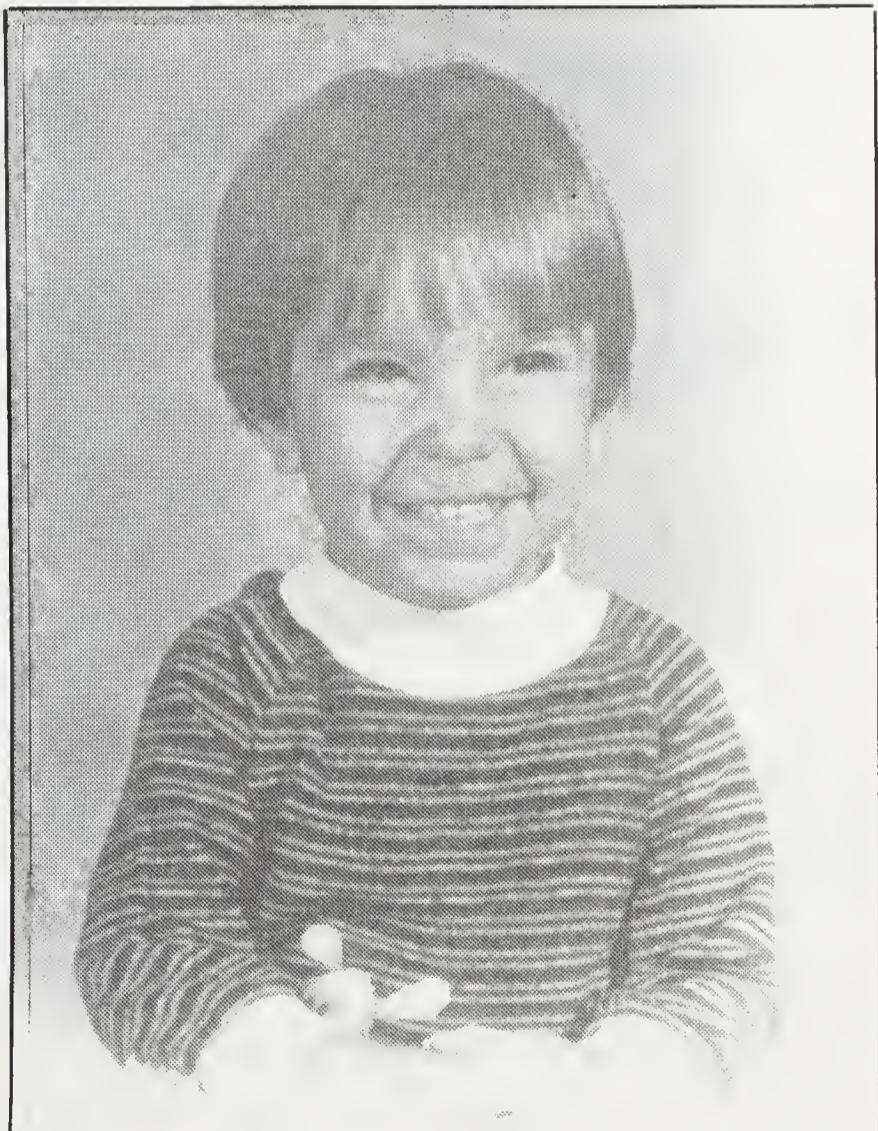
From "The Circle of life"

Some of us fall to the wayside
And some of us soar to the stars
And some of us sail through our troubles
And some of us live with the scars

There's far too much to take in here
More to find than can ever be found
But the sun rolling high
Through the sapphire sky
Keeps great and small on the endless round

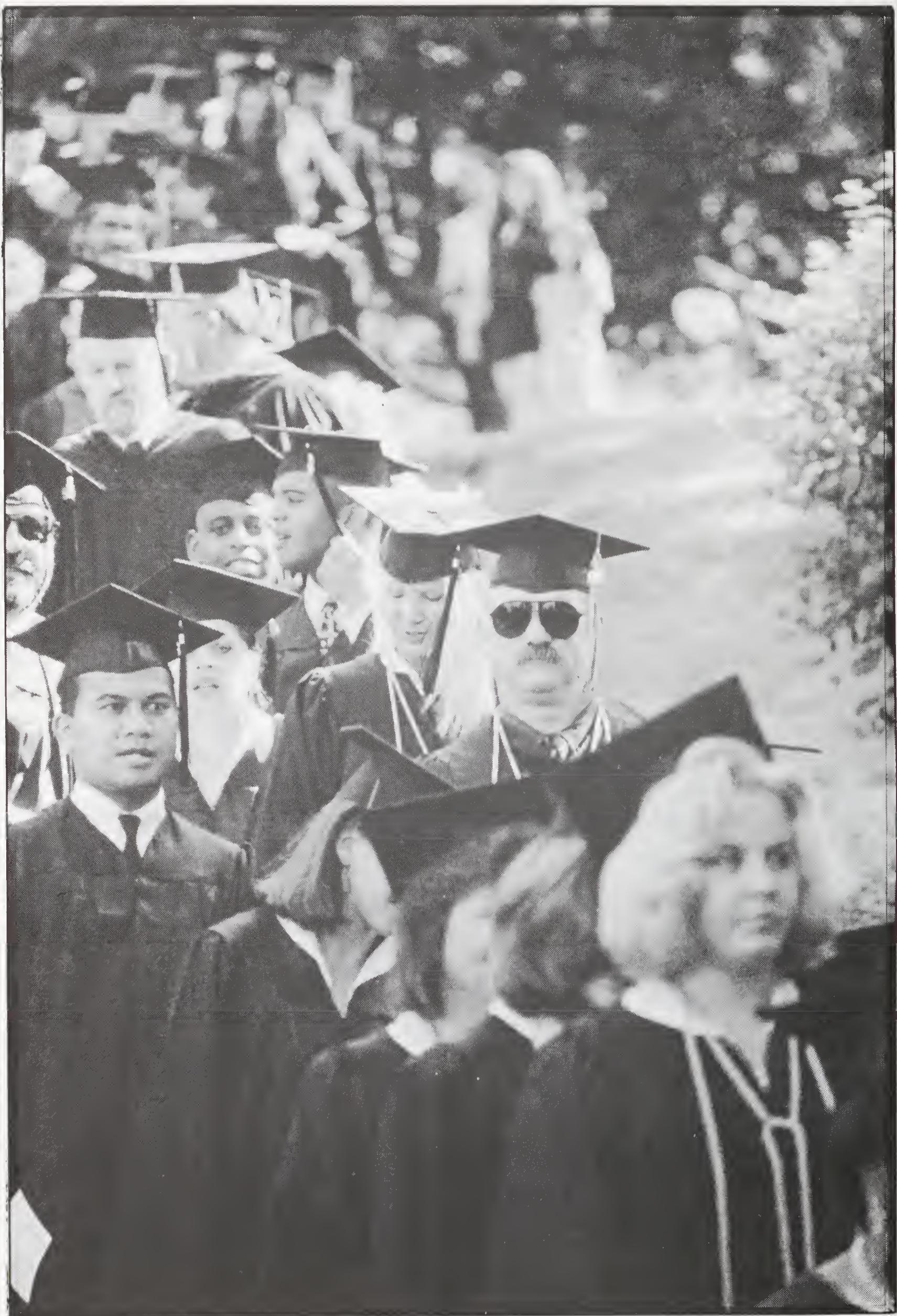
In the circle of life
It's the wheel of fortune
It's the leap of faith
It's the hand of hope
Till we find our place
On the path unwinding
In the circle, the circle of life

Elton John



July 21, 1976 - April 5, 1996

Photos courtesy of Jim and Jan Weigand



The Change

By Garth Brooks

And I hear them saying
You'll never change things.
And no matter what you do,
It's still the same thing.

But it's not the world
That I am changing.
I do this so
This world will know
That it will not change me.

Yes, I do this so
This world will know
That It will not change Me.

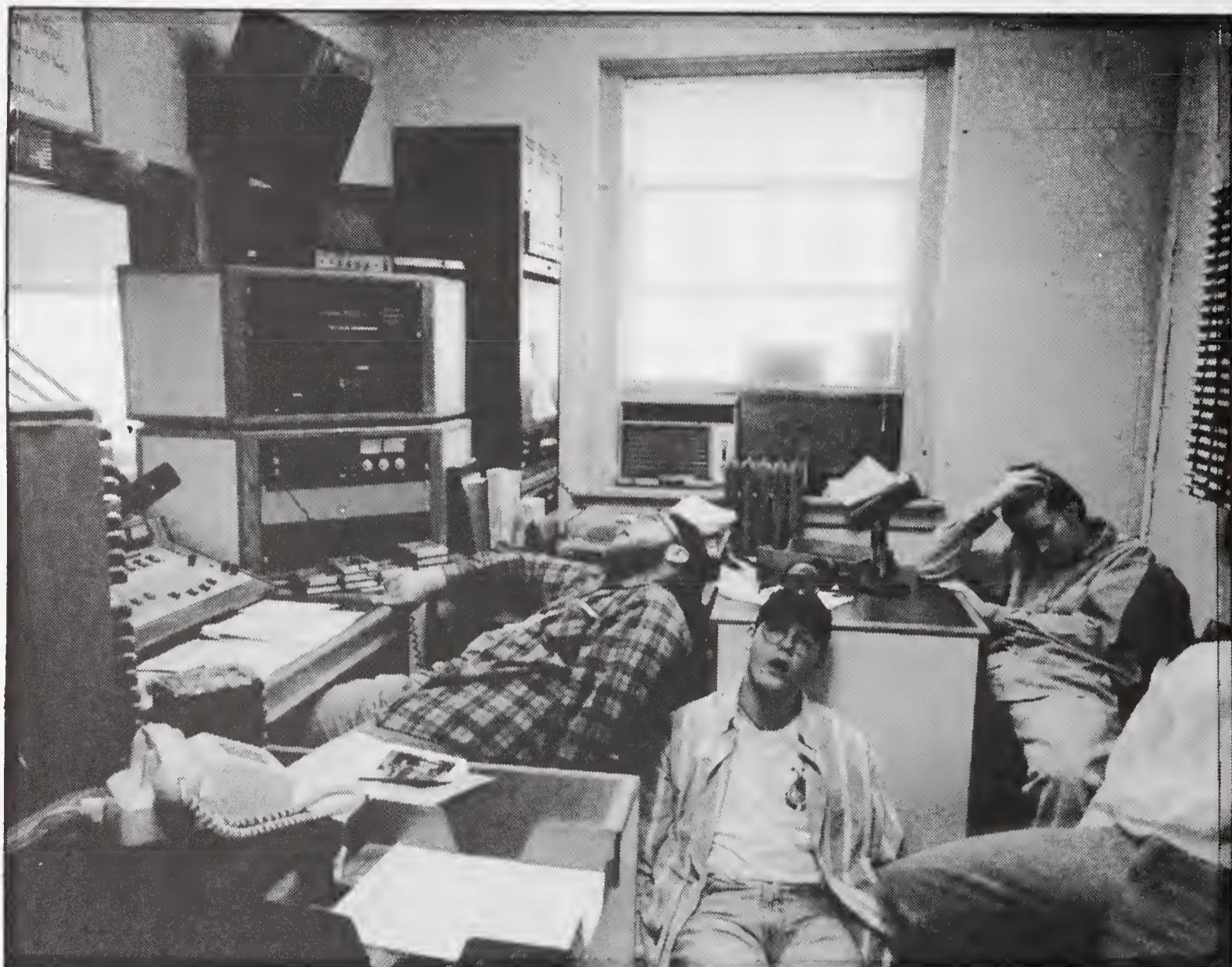


photo by Charles Welborn

Some things NEVER change!!

